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# Title joy for City

**The Game** Match report and in-depth analysis



**The day I met Martin Amis**

Andrew Billen, Times2

# Sunak seeks verdict of ethics chief on Braverman 'code breach'

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor
**Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor, Hiroshima

Rishi Sunak will ask his ethics chief today for advice about Suella Braverman's requests for a private speed awareness course, as he flies home to decide the home secretary's fate.

The prime minister will speak to Braverman about claims that she broke the ministerial code by asking civil servants whether she could avoid a fine and points on her driving licence without attending a course with members of the public.

Allies of Braverman dismissed the story as a smear, but other Conservative MPs criticised the matter as a "mega-distraction", saying that it would intensify questions about the home secretary's judgment after several recent controversies.

After returning today from a G7 conference in Japan, Sunak will ask Sir Laurie Magnus, his independent adviser on ministerial interests, for advice on what action to take. This could lead to a full investigation. Labour has called for Magnus to investigate Braverman's actions, which No 10 has insisted that Sunak did not know about before the news broke over the weekend.

Simon Case, the cabinet secretary, is likely to be asked about Cabinet Office advice, after which Braverman dropped her request and paid a fine.

Opposition MPs are expected to press for answers in the Commons, where Braverman is due to take Home Office questions and may be called by the Speaker to face urgent questions.

Sunak told a press conference in Japan yesterday that he did not "know the full details of what has happened" and had not spoken to Braverman. He said: "I understand that she's expressed regret for speeding, accepted the penalty and paid the fine."

**Braverman "owes explanation", page 8**

# NHS app to let patients book private healthcare

## Choice of treatment aims to cut waiting lists

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

Patients will be encouraged to use the NHS app to choose treatment in private hospitals as the prime minister sets out plans to cut waiting lists.

Dozens of private diagnostic centres will also offer checks for cancer and other conditions in efforts to use private companies to boost NHS capacity and speed up care.

Sir Keir Starmer will promise today to hit all big NHS targets in the first term of a Labour government, a pledge that will pile pressure on Rishi Sunak to set out his own timescale for achieving standards that have not been met for up to eight years.

The NHS waiting list for routine treatments has reached a record 7.33 million and is predicted to keep rising until next spring.

Both main parties are relying on increased use of private hospitals to boost NHS-funded care and bring down waiting times. There is an emerging cross-party consensus that this will happen only if patients are given choice about where they are treated.

The prime minister believes that offering patients more choice and better data on their local hospital's performance will drive up standards and put pressure on poor performers to match the best.

He is expected in the coming weeks to begin a drive to promote patient choice, as he publishes a report by an elective recovery task force that will recommend increasing treatment capacity "as far as possible via the independent sector". It is also expected to recommend making patient choice "the default mechanism" for those who are referred for routine care.

Patients' right to choose where they are treated was introduced under Tony Blair, but the power to exercise this right has diminished as the NHS has focused on other priorities.

Sunak, who took office promising to "give patients genuine choice about where and when to access care", is expected to insist that choice is made central to the NHS. GPs are expected to be more closely monitored to see whether they routinely offer a choice of providers, including private ones.

The private sector performs about 140,000 procedures a month paid for by the NHS, out of a total of 1.5 million. There are questions about how far this can be scaled up.

The NHS app is expected to play a significant role in encouraging choice, allowing patients to shop around for shorter waits. The Times reported last year that Steve Barclay, the health secretary, planned to give patients "real-time data" on waiting lists so they could decide whether to travel to get quicker treatment.

A formal announcement of the initiative is expected, and Sunak is said to want "radical transparency" to help patients make decisions.

At present, only 28 NHS hospitals

**Continued on page 4**

PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES



**Red alert** Jennifer Lawrence at the Cannes Film Festival where Bread and Roses, her documentary about women in Afghanistan, was screened. Reports, page 7

# German men take a stand for sitting to spend a penny

**Oliver Moody** Berlin

Seven years ago the writers Niklas Frank and James Cave published a whimsical guide to Germany's sometimes perplexing social conventions, titled *German Men Sit Down to Pee.*

That assertion has now entered the realms of empirical fact after an international poll confirmed that the German male is indeed the undisputed champion Sitzpinkler (sitting-widdler) of the West.

In the survey, 62 per cent of German men said they usually or always sat, compared with 50 per cent of Swedes, 34 per cent of Italians and only 23 per cent of Britons. The habit was particularly pronounced among German men over 55, of whom 49 per sent said that they invariably sat down to urinate and only 9 per cent said they never did.

Some reports suggest that the practice is a relatively recent phenomenon and the term Sitzpinkler has acquired a mildly derogatory undertone, implying effeminacy. Generations of German parents worried about their small boys' aim have long encouraged them to sit down, however, and signs in the lavatories of some bars and cafés also recommend it.

Over the years several German urologists have argued that sitting is a more natural and comfortable position for urinating because of the structure of the male plumbing system.

Frank and Cave noted that the practice made sense in the context of German lavatories, which are often built with an "inspection shelf" for the user to examine the results of their labours.

For some men sitting can be healthier, according to Leiden University Medical Centre's department of urology. A 2014 study by the Dutch institution found that sitting down helped to empty the bladder faster and more completely than standing up.

Among the famous men who have admitted to being Sitzpinklers is the Argentine football star Lionel Messi, who said in 2017 that sitting down was "more comfortable", especially in the mornings.

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# Today's highlights



**9.35am** **Piers Morgan**, Arsenal supporter, and **Noel Gallagher**, Man City supporter
**11am** The Scottish Labour leader **Anas Sarwar** on whether he can win voters from the SNP
**12.35pm** **Steve Backshall**, TV presenter and naturalist, from the Chelsea Flower Show
**2.05pm** The Olivier award-winning actress **Patsy Ferran** on her new film Firebrand
**3.35pm** **Stephen Mangan**, actor and presenter, right, discusses his new children's book The Unlikely Rise of Harry Sponge

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## TODAY'S EDITION

### Willoughby's ITV 'ultimatum'

ITV forced Phillip Schofield to quit *This Morning* after it was given an ultimatum by his co-presenter Holly Willoughby, sources have said. Schofield stepped down on Saturday after 21 years on the daytime sofa to "protect the show I love". **Page 11**

### 1.7m children missing school

About 1.7 million children are regularly absent from school and more than 125,000 "ghost children" are missing most of their schooling, according to data showing that the number severely absent is still far above pre-pandemic levels. **Page 14**

### Muslim protest disrupts film

Muslim protesters have disrupted a screening of *The Kerala Story*, a Bollywood film that they say destroys religious harmony with its portrayal of an Indian state as a hub of Islamic terrorism and forced conversions. **Page 17**

**53** days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



### Silicon Valley hedonism

A tech executive's fatal stabbing has exposed San Francisco's underground party scene, nicknamed the "Lifestyle", where Silicon Valley bosses swap partners and take designer drugs at parties in multimillion-dollar Bay Area mansions. **Page 30**

### Libor rigging 'was state-led'

A co-ordinated drive by national central banks and governments pressed banks to manipulate the Libor and Euribor benchmark interest rates at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, an exposé to be published next week alleges. **Page 31**

### Fitness fears for Robinson

Concern is growing over the fitness of Ollie Robinson after the England fast bowler was seen wearing a protective boot on his damaged left ankle yesterday. Robinson is expected to be a key figure in the Ashes, which start on June 16. **Page 56**

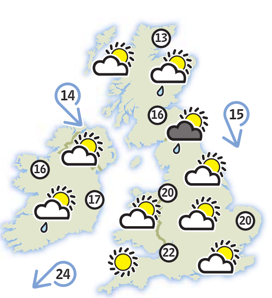

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### THE WEATHER




A dry day for most with lengthy spells of sunshine, patchy rain in central Britain. **Full forecast, page 47**

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# Starmer: I'll meet all big NHS targets in my first term as PM

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

All big NHS targets will be reached in the first term of a Labour government, Sir Keir Starmer will promise today.

The Labour leader will also pledge to cut heart disease deaths by a quarter and stop the rise in suicides in a speech laying out plans for the health service.

Piling pressure on Rishi Sunak over NHS targets that have not been met for years, Starmer will say that there will be "no excuses" if he becomes prime minister. Private hospitals will be used more to bring down waiting lists, and care outside hospitals will be increased to keep people out of accident and emergency.

The health service is expected to be second only to the economy as an election battleground next year, and Starmer says that it must be reformed to recover from a crisis in which waiting times for both routine and emergency care have grown. "The next Labour government will deliver an NHS that is there when you need it. No backsliding, no excuses," he says. "We will meet these standards again. We will get the NHS back on its feet."

Aides said that the promise applied to all targets on hospital, ambulance and A&E care within five years.

The target for A&E units to deal with 95 per cent of patients within four hours has not been met since 2015. The promise that 92 per cent of people would wait no longer than 18 weeks for routine care was last hit in 2016.

For cancer patients, the target for treatment to begin within two months of an urgent GP referral was last met in 2015. Ambulance response time targets have been hit more recently, before the pandemic.

Starmer says that Labour "will fix the NHS", although details remain sparse. "Old values, new opportunities. Technology and science, convenience and control, renewal not decline," he says.

Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, promised yesterday to spend more of the NHS budget outside hospitals to keep people well at home. He said he wanted to "shift the focus of healthcare … into the community so that people can access their GP more readily, get support in their homes".

Streeting told *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* on the BBC that "we underinvest in primary care, community services, mental health, diagnostics and capital". He added that hospital bosses "recognise that the pressure we see in hospitals is in part driven by the clogged front door to the NHS in primary care and community services, as well as delayed discharges in social care."

However, he said that plans to reform social care would have to wait until June. He also said he would stop short of creating laws to deal with obesity, saying he did not want to "go around banning things".

Nigel Edwards, chief executive of the Nuffield Trust think tank, said it was "unlikely" that Labour would fix within five years problems that had built up over decades. Describing the party's plans as "extremely ambitious", he said: "Delivering them will require time, staff and more long-term funding than Labour have so far pledged."

A Conservative source said that cutting waiting lists was "one of our top five priorities", adding: "If Labour were serious about NHS reform they would have taken action where they are in power in Wales, where waiting lists are higher."

# … but his pledges are 'not cutting through'

**Patrick Maguire** Red Box Editor
**Henry Zeffman** Associate Political Editor

Sir Keir Starmer's five missions for government are "a terrible way to campaign" and are not cutting through with the public, sources close to the Labour leader have told The Times.

Before the third of Starmer's five speeches on his vision for Britain, senior Labour officials have privately conceded that the "national missions" have yet to capture voters' imagination.

The promises, announced to considerable fanfare in January, have also proven divisive internally. Shadow cabinet ministers have criticised them as a distraction from their messaging on the economy and cost of living.

Having already delivered speeches on the first two missions — achieving the highest economic growth in the G7, and "making Britain's streets safe" — Starmer will set out his vision for "an NHS fit for the future" in a speech in Essex today. The others are to "remove barriers to opportunity" and make Britain a "clean-energy superpower".

Behind closed doors, however, some of his closest allies have come to view the project as a drain on resources.

"We are all annoyed about these missions," a shadow cabinet source who was involved in their formulation said.

A source close to Starmer said: "The missions aren't working — not yet. They haven't cut through. So the third speech is now going to have to clear a very high bar."

A shadow cabinet minister said: "They've just not captured the public's attention. They're actually not a bad way to think about government but they're a terrible way to campaign."

Starmer has said that the missions will "form the backbone of Labour's election manifesto" and "drive forward a Labour government".

Critics argue that the aims are too abstract and expressed in language that is too woolly to communicate to voters in a straightforward way — unlike the "pledge card" of policy promises used by Tony Blair in 1997.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## More choice on NHS app

allow patients to manage appointments via the app. This is expected to be expanded, and private hospitals will be included for the first time.

"There is definitely scope for that," a Whitehall source said. "The NHS app is increasingly well used, there is already some functionality where patients can directly book, and we are looking to modernise those booking capabilities and update the options in the app."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said the NHS app had "a vital role in giving patients greater control over their own care … We have already started to implement the elective recovery task force's work and a full plan will be published soon, outlining how we can go even further to unlock the independent sector."

The plan is also expected to include more outsourcing of cancer checks to tackle delays that doctors fear will lead to thousands of early deaths.

There are 106 community diagnostic centres offering blood tests and scans such as MRIs, x-rays and ultrasounds. Dozens more run by the private sector are expected in an effort to increase the number to about 190.

Only 63.5 per cent of patients given a cancer diagnosis begin treatment within two months of a referral for tests, against a target of 85 per cent that has not been hit for nine years.

Richard Murray, chief executive of the King's Fund think tank, said: "Patients having choice over where they are treated is a good thing, but I don't think this is the thing that is going to turn the dial on waiting lists."

Murray, who was a senior official at the Department of Health when choice was introduced in the 2000s, said GPs had found it "irritating" and patients were little more enthusiastic. "The first response you get is, 'we just want to go to our local hospital, so can't you just make the waiting list low?'," he said.

He added that using the app would "remove some of the bureaucracy" but many patients would still want to speak to their GP.

**Sex pests cost NHS millions, page 6**

### Analysis

**When Tony Blair brought down waiting lists in the early 2000s, offering patients the right to choose where they were treated was a key element in the plan to turn the NHS around. So, however, was billions of pounds of extra cash, alongside reform to NHS structures and payment systems (Chris Smyth writes).**

**The evidence that choice itself makes a difference to waiting times is largely inconclusive. Patients have been sceptical, asking why they should be expected to shop around when they just want a good local hospital. Sunak sees the first as a means to the second: only through data-driven competition will hospitals be forced to improve.**

**Sir Keir Starmer also sees choice as central to the goal of bringing down record waiting lists. Making it easier for patients to choose NHS-funded care in private hospitals is likely to incentivise the independent sector to lay on more theatres and evening and weekend sessions.**

**This will help to treat hundreds of thousands more patients but will not be enough on its own.**

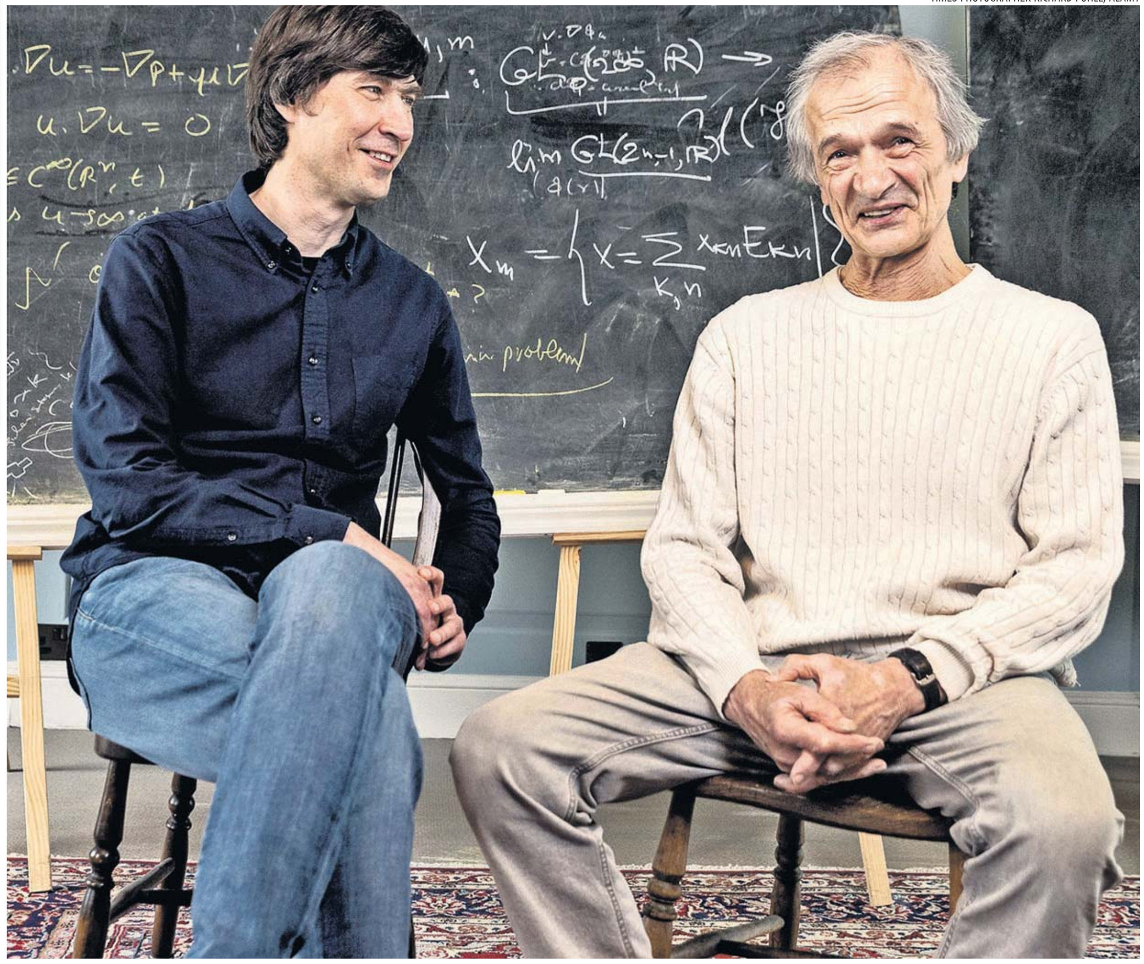
**Extra capacity will cost and neither the government nor Labour have promised the money, so the target for elective treatment within 18 weeks is likely to be the hardest to hit.**

**Bringing down waits for emergency and routine care will require changes to training and workforce planning, investment in infrastructure and reforms to social care. Neither party has come up with such a plan.**



# Maths experts divided by war find common denominator

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE; ALAMY



The mathematical theorists Mikhail Burtsev, left, from Russia, and Oleksandr Kosyak, from Ukraine, have found academic sanctuary at the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences. The blackboard shows their common language: maths

**Tom Whipple** Science Editor

Oleksandr Kosyak is used to imagining improbable relationships. That is, after all, what group theorists do. His is a world of transformations in infinite dimensional spaces, of operations and interactions between abstract objects.

Even so, Kosyak, a Ukrainian, struggles when considering the improbability of one less-abstract relationship: the one he is to have with his new Russian colleagues. "In Ukraine a lot of people don't like Russians," he says. "But you can also imagine … " he chooses his words, "… adequate … Russians."

Kosyak, 67, is very smiley and he is smiling now. Equally, his response is not completely without an edge.

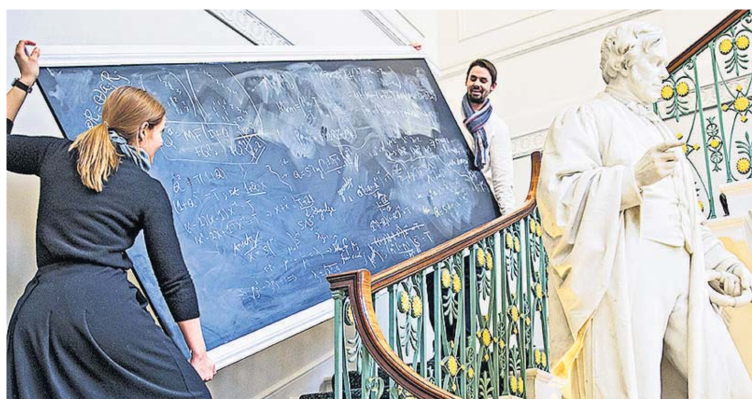
Sitting on a sofa in London, a year after he fled Kyiv, he is the beneficiary of a fellowship programme set up, in part, to support outstanding Ukrainian physicists and mathematicians.

Sitting next to him is another beneficiary of the scheme. Mikhail Burtsev, though, is a Russian. When the Ukraine war began, like many organisations, the London Institute for Mathematical Sciences wondered what it could do to help Ukrainians. Unlike many organisations it also wondered what it could do to help Russians.

"When you see somebody whose life is in chaos and they can't practise their craft — they can't set the world record they were born to set — you offer sanctuary," Thomas Fink, the director of the institute, says. "There is a long tradition of great nations absorbing talent in troubled times."

For him, then, it seemed obvious that the mathematicians on both sides were in need. It also seemed obvious that helping them was very different from helping Russia itself. But, he confesses: "It was not clear what the public sentiment would be."

So there was a certain amount of trepidation when they created the Arnold and Landau Fellowships, funding positions for ten theorists for three



years from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. Now the ten places are starting to fill up in the institute's offices on the second floor of the Royal Institution and the test is not just of the public sentiment. Fifteen hundred miles away Kosyak and Burtsev's countrymen face off over trenches. Here they meet over blackboards.

How will they feel when the summer's offensives begin in Ukraine? How will they cope with the chaos and national hatreds yet to come? The question is easier for Kosyak. Here, in friendly Britain, he can openly support his friends and family back home. Burtsev is understandably more reticent.

For him Britain is an escape from academic purgatory. "It is very depressing. When everything happened I understood I could not do global science. I also did not want to participate … we are united by our hatred of war."

The London Institute is a new organisation modelled on America's Institute for Advanced Study, where Einstein spent the latter half of his career. Its goal is to allow academics the space to work without the bureaucracy and responsibilities of a university. New recruits are encouraged to bring mugs from their past institutions. On a shelf by the coffee machine you can choose from Caltech, Stanford, Princeton, UCL, MIT and KCL.

These institutions are not merely the places the London Institute's scientists come from. They are also their competition. So if you are a young, nimble, less well-known organisation, you take your opportunities. Fink is unapologetic: their scheme is not merely altruistic. "Obviously, this is about offering sanctuary but it is also a chance for us to get more talented people than we would ever otherwise get," he says. "Look at the 1930s, at the legacy of the Jewish refugee scientists in Britain and America: it's just off the charts. We are getting superstars."

Standing by a blackboard Kosyak and Burtsev, two of those superstars, discuss some equations. They do so in Russian, a language they share. They also do so in a shared language they are even more fluent in: mathematics.

Burtsev has been here six months, Kosyak only a week after a year spent moving around Europe. As a nation, says Kosyak, it will be "generations" before Ukraine can forgive Russia. But as individuals? Perhaps, over equations and academic sanctuary, he can find the "adequate" ones.

# Amis was not given the respect he deserved, say fellow writers

**Tom Ball**

Martin Amis was wrongly spurned by critics in recent years, fellow novelists have said, as friends and politicians paid tribute to the writer who "dominated his generation".

The author of 15 novels including *Money*, *Time's Arrow* and *The Rachel Papers* died on Friday aged 73 at his home in Lake Worth, Florida, his wife, Isabel Fonseca, said. He had oesophageal cancer.

Many print and web pages of homage were devoted to Amis yesterday, praising his 50 years of steady literary output. Some, however, noted that much of this praise had been absent during the final decades of his life, when the reviews of his work were often scathing.

Philip Hensher, a novelist and critic, said that Amis's 21st-century works had been met with a "total lack of respect and critical consideration" by reviewers, which "at last had the impact on his readership and popular opinion that his detractors had hoped for".

Hensher wrote in an article for The Spectator: "Literary culture had started to elevate historical fiction, but Amis's ventures into it were out of tune with the prevailing principles of well-researched accuracy, avoidance of humour, a horror of anything resembling playfulness."



**Martin Amis died at his Florida home, aged 73**

Amis's fall from the sort of popularity he had enjoyed in the 1980s and 1990s was something he accepted, though, and did not seem to be overly troubled by, once telling an interviewer: "There's a one-word narrative for every writer. For [Christopher] Hitchens, it was 'contrarian'. For me, it's 'decline'."

As he himself wrote, it is only in death, when the obituaries are written, that the "truth" about a writer's standing starts to emerge.

Writing in The New Yorker, Sir Salman Rushdie, a friend since the 1980s, said that Amis's literary voice "was at once unique and instantly recognisable". "Only Martin sounded like Martin Amis, and it was unwise to try to imitate him," Rushdie, 75, said.

"He used to say that what he wanted to do was leave behind a shelf of books to be able to say, 'From here to here, it's me.' His voice is silent now. His friends will miss him terribly. But we have the shelf."

The playwright Michael Frayn, 89, said that Amis not only "dominated his own generation" but "cast long shadows over everybody else's". Frayn, whose wife, Claire Tomalin, hired Amis at The New Statesman in 1975 as deputy literary editor, added: "There's really only one writer who could do justice to Martin Amis's sharply intelligent and entirely idiosyncratic contribution to literature, and that's Martin Amis."

Boris Johnson, who himself once turned his hand to novel writing, tweeted, saying that he was "shocked and sad at the death of Martin Amis. The greatest, darkest, funniest satirist since Evelyn Waugh".

**Amis's precious legacy, leading article, page 25; obituary, pages 42-43**
**My encounters with Amis, Times2**

RUSSELL SACH



**Misunderstanding all you see** Psychedelic Eye, a mosaic designed by John Lennon for his Surrey home in 1964, which is said to have inspired Beatles' songs, is on show at Kingham Lodge in the Cotswolds

# Hospital sex pests cost NHS millions

**TIMES Health Commission**

Sian Norris, Sascha Lavin, Kat Lay

The NHS has paid out millions of pounds in compensation and legal costs for claims of sexual misconduct since 2018, with more than 1,500 reports of harassment, assault and inappropriate behaviour by NHS staff in the same period.

According to figures obtained by The Times the NHS paid £2,174,658 in damages to victims of sexual misconduct, as well as £1.5 million of claimants' legal costs and £338,194 of its own legal costs: a total bill of just over £4 million.

The revelations come as questions are raised over whether the NHS is having its own "MeToo" moment, with more female staff speaking up about a culture of harassment and misogyny across the health service.

The Times Health Commission, a year-long inquiry into health and social care, has heard allegations of a boys' club culture in surgery, prompting calls for more action to tackle the issue.

Surviving in Scrubs, a campaign group that supports NHS staff facing sexual harassment, said: "As shocking as these findings are, they are not surprising. Trusts seem to hold their reputations in such high regard that they are glossing over the issues of sexism, misogyny, sexual harassment and sexual assault. More needs to be done to protect and support the survivors of these behaviours."

Data obtained under the Freedom of Information Act revealed that there have been 1,571 reports of sexual misconduct made by staff and patients across 167 NHS Trusts in England and Wales since 2018. These include allegations of rape, inappropriate touching and inappropriate comments by staff against colleagues and patients. Some patients said they had had clothing removed or were touched in intimate areas without their consent. Most victims were female and most alleged perpetrators were men.

One patient, known by the pseudonym Priya, said she had been touched inappropriately by a male radiographer during an MRI scan on her arm. The procedure involved her being strapped down, leaving her feeling particularly vulnerable. She told The Times: "He tried to manhandle me and touch my breasts."

When she asked him to stop, he became angry. She was so scared that she began to cry. "I was very distressed," Priya said. She reported the incident but said that her complaint was "dismissed, mainly, with a poor apology".

Jemima Olchawski, chief executive of the Fawcett Society, a women's rights charity, said: "Doctors and medical professionals are in a position of trust and as patients women may be at their most vulnerable when they have contact with the NHS. More must be done to ensure our services are supporting women's health and recovery, not creating new harms."

Another patient known by the pseudonym Rosa alleged that she was groomed by her male consultant when she had breast cancer treatment in her 40s. "The hospital was his playground," she told The Times. The doctor kissed and inappropriately touched Rosa, and asked her to perform a sex act on him, she said. The power dynamic between the pair made Rosa particularly vulnerable. "He completely sexually abused me," she said. "Afterwards, I felt toxic."

These experiences sit alongside recent high-profile cases of sexual harassment of hospital staff by colleagues. Last year Mohammad Nazeer, an accident and emergency doctor, was found to have raped a female colleague at the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Trust.

Medical students have also been victims of sexual misconduct. In one case Bipin Kumar Jha, a gastrointestinal surgeon, intimately touched three female medical students without their consent during impromptu training sessions at University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust. Both doctors were struck off the UK medical register.

Not all allegations upheld by trusts resulted in dismissal, however. The Times research revealed that a doctor who conducted a vaginal examination without consent was offered training, rather than a more severe sanction. Other staff members received written warnings or were offered reflective practice.

The failure to sufficiently sanction more serious offences has led to the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) appealing against decisions made by NHS Trusts and the General Medical Council (GMC), which regulates doctors.

In one disturbing case the PSA and GMC both intervened when staff found to have shared racist, misogynistic and illegal content on a WhatsApp group were not even given a warning by their Trust.

Daisy Cooper, the Liberal Democrat health spokeswoman, said: "All patients and NHS staff should feel safe and be safe in our hospitals but these shocking findings show that this is simply not the case."

The Times's findings revealed concerns about safeguarding for patients and staff as well as the use of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). Although gagging orders for whistleblowers in the NHS have been banned, NDAs can be used in other cases.

Birmingham Community Healthcare, East Sussex Healthcare and Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals admitted to issuing NDAs or confidentiality clauses to resolve sexual harassment cases in the four years after April 2017. The trusts did not respond to requests for comment.

"There is no justification for covering up sexual or other professional misconduct inside the NHS," Professor Julia Macfarlane, from the campaign group Can't Buy My Silence, said. "Sadly this information is consistent with the widespread use of NDAs through all our workplaces and institutions. It has to stop."

An NHS spokesman said: "Sexual misconduct, violence, harassment and abuse are criminal acts. All NHS organisations must have robust measures in place to ensure immediate action is taken in any cases reported to them."

## 'He exploited me when I was feeling vulnerable'

**Case study**

**To Rosa now, it is clear. As a mother in her forties undergoing breast treatment, her doctor, she alleges, exploited her vulnerability and his power in order to sexually abuse her.**

**"He was flirtatious with me," Rosa says. "I felt like he had saved my life. I felt very loving to him, in a very childlike way."**

**The grooming, she says, "started after my second operation", in the late 1990s. "He did a very sexualised examination. He was holding my hand and then he made a sexual comment."**

**The pair started kissing. "I was sort of cuddling him, and then it became a lot less loving," Rosa adds. He asked her to perform a sex act, she says, adding: "Afterwards he said, 'I shouldn't have done that' and dumped my clothes next to me and went out the room."**

**Documents obtained by The Times show that in 2013, the General Medical Council (GMC), which regulates doctors, updated its guidance on maintaining professional boundaries between patients and healthcare professionals, in order to protect vulnerable patients like Rosa from sexual abuse. An April 2012 draft included a definition of vulnerability "for example as a result of a learning disability or an ongoing serious physical or mental illness".**

**However, in the final draft, a changed definition said that "some patients are likely to be more vulnerable than others because of their illness, disability or frailty, or because of their current circumstances".**

**Colin Melville, medical director and director for education and standards at the GMC, told The Times that the guidance "strengthened our description of vulnerability, as we acknowledged some groups may have not been recognised under our proposed list".**

**He added: "There is no place for any kind of sexual misconduct and assault in the medical profession, and we absolutely condemn all forms of sexual harassment, misogyny and sexism in the healthcare services."**

**Rosa chose to raise her concerns, resulting in a disciplinary hearing. "The picture they were portraying of me was someone who was causing mayhem, who wanted his head on a plate," she says. "I wanted to stop him from doing this to other women."**

**The hearing did not find in her favour and her alleged abuser is still practising. Time has not lessened the trauma and she is still fighting to have her experience recognised. "On the one hand he was saving lives," Rosa says. "On the other hand, he was ruining lives."**

# Jude Law is scarily impressive as murderous and ageing Henry VIII

**Film** Kevin Maher

**Firebrand**
Cannes Film Festival
★★★★☆

Jude Law immediately joins the upper ranks of the great screen Henry VIIIs with an incendiary, movie-defining performance in this Cannes entry. A conventional period drama by genre, the film is directed by the Brazilian-Algerian Karim Aïnouz from a script by twin-sister screenwriters Henrietta and Jessica Ashworth (*Tell it to the Bees*). It takes as its subject the closing, paranoid and increasingly incapacitated years of Henry's reign, and specifically his relationship with his sixth and final wife Catherine Parr (Alicia Vikander). It lays claim, however, to two standout coups de cinéma. One is a high-tension narrative that suggests Catherine was a former lover of, and secretly funding, the radical Protestant reformer Anne Askew (Erin Doherty). The other is the performance of Law.

Swerving the suavity of Richard Burton (*Anne of the Thousand Days*) and the intensity of Robert Shaw (*A Man for All Seasons*) and Damian Lewis (*Wolf Hall*), Law occupies similar sybaritic terrain to Charles Laughton (*The Private Life of Henry VIII*), but with an extra dollop of menace. After some early courtly scene-setting, mostly with Catherine and Anne, Henry joins the action in 1546, physically exhausted from the second invasion of France and his ulcerated leg. He seems a fiery beast initially, but one who is easily mollified by Catherine's attentiveness and her acquiescence in the brutal marital bedroom. Here a gasp-inducing shot of Henry's enormous rolling buttocks suggests that Law has partaken in some alarmingly detrimental weight gain (he hasn't!) or else clever editing, and a substitute posterior, is at work.

It's all royal sycophancy and meat-flinging feasts until, still early on, and wounded by the news of a pivotal murder, Catherine snaps at Henry, "Her death is on your soul!" His reaction is shocking, and possibly the most terrifying mood shift since Joe Pesci turned on Ray Liotta in *Goodfellas*. It's so startling, and the parameters of the reaction so clear, that Catherine simply, truthfully, whispers, "Please don't kill me."

The rest of the film, like a Tudor version of *Sleeping with the Enemy*, is propelled forward by this fundamental tension. Henry is a psychopath who, at any minute, can have Catherine murdered. And if he uncovers her alliance with Anne? Unthinkable. Vikander proves a suitably stoic foil to Law, and plays Catherine in a mask of brittle inexpressiveness when faced with her husband's grotesque displays. There's some silly eleventh-hour shenanigans involving a necklace and some historical wish fulfilment. But this is vividly constructed drama, expertly played.
*In cinemas this year*

# Villain in my film is just like Trump, says De Niro

**Constance Kampfner** Cannes

Robert De Niro has likened the "entitlement" of his murderous character in Martin Scorsese's new film to Donald Trump's "banality of evil".

The actor stars in *Killers of the Flower Moon* as Leonardo DiCaprio's avaricious uncle, William Hale, who orders a string of killings in an effort to get his hands on the wealth of the Osage Native American tribe.

The Western drama is based on real murders during the 1920s after oil was discovered on tribal land, prompting an FBI investigation.

"I don't understand a lot about my



**Robert De Niro with Martin Scorsese, Lily Gladstone and Leonardo DiCaprio**

character," De Niro said at a press conference in Cannes after the premiere of the three-and-a-half-hour film on Saturday. "Why does he betray them all?

"There's a kind of feeling of entitlement," the actor, an outspoken Trump critic, said. "It's the banality of evil. It's the thing we have to watch out for. We see it today, of course.

"We all know who I'm going to talk about, but I'm not going to say the name. That guy is stupid. Imagine if you're smart. Even Hale was smart in many ways. And that's the scary part."

De Niro later became more explicit, drawing a parallel between Trump voters and members of the Osage community who continued to back Hale even after he was charged. "Look with Trump, there are people who think he can do a good job. Imagine how insane that is."

DiCaprio, who plays Ernest Burkhart, who falls for Mollie, an Osage woman, said: "What Marty [Scorsese] does incredibly well is that he expresses the most twisted, sinister character you can ever imagine and brings out the human condition."

The actors and Scorsese, 80, were joined on stage by Geoffrey Standing Bear, the Osage Nation chief, who was a consultant on the film. He said he had been impressed by the research and "hard work" the team had put in, telling De Niro: "You can probably talk better Osage than some of our Osage."

He praised Scorsese for focusing the narrative on Mollie, played by Lily Gladstone, and Ernest's romance, rather than on the FBI investigation as had initially been the plan. DiCaprio had been asked first to play the FBI agent Tom White.

Standing Bear said: "Early on, I asked Mr Scorsese, 'How are you going to approach the story?'. He said, 'I'm going to tell a story about trust; trust between Mollie and Ernest, trust between the outside world and the Osage, and the betrayal of those trusts.'

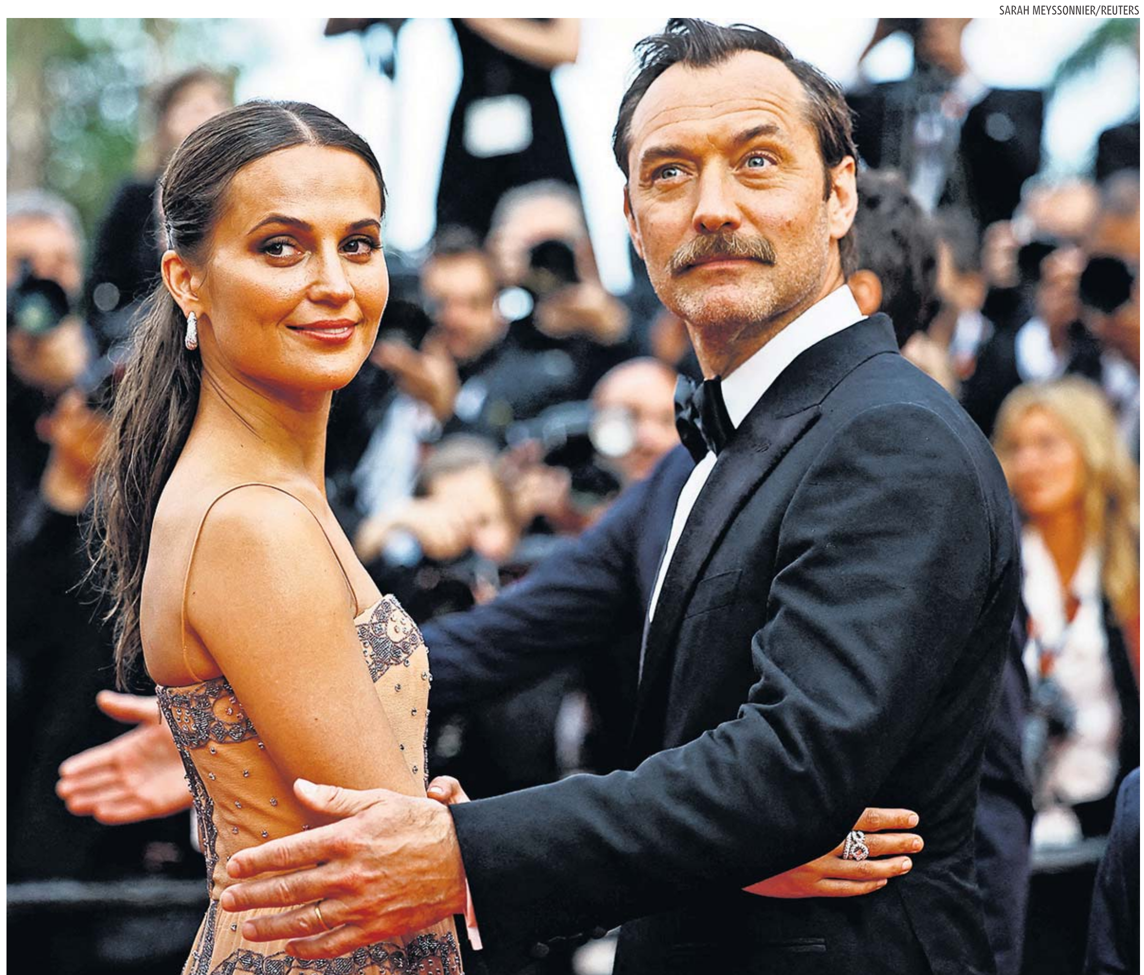
"My people suffered greatly and to this very day those effects are with us. But I can say on behalf of the Osage, Marty Scorsese and his team have restored trust and we know that trust will not be betrayed."

Scorsese explained that he had decided to pivot once he realised that the audience would be ahead of the film. "They know it's not a whodunit," he said. "It's a who-didn't-do-it."

Gladstone, who is of Blackfeet and Nimiipuu heritage, said few had Scorsese's ability to "turn the golden lens" on native American stories. "Who else is going to challenge people to challenge their own complicity in white supremacy on such a platform as this man there?" she asked. "Why does the world not know about these things? Our communities always have."

The $200 million film is the 11th Scorsese-De Niro collaboration and has divided critics. Peter Bradshaw called it "an epic of creeping, existential horror about the birth of the American century" in a five-star review in The Guardian. The Times's Kevin Maher said it was "a damp squib" and gave it two stars.

SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS



Alicia Vikander and Jude Law took to the red carpet for the premiere of their film, Firebrand, as Natalie Portman, below, spoke out

## Female stars kick off the conventions at Cannes

**It is a topic of discussion every year at Cannes. But the place of women on the red carpet, and in film generally, has been under a bigger spotlight this year in a festival marked both by a record number of films by female directors and by the return of Johnny Depp (Constance Kampfner writes).**

**Cate Blanchett kicked off her stilettos in an act of rebellion as she took to the stage at a party hosted by Variety magazine and the Golden Globes. Shoes have long been a political symbol at Cannes, which has an unspoken rule that women wear high heels on the red carpet. In 2018 Kristen Stewart ditched her Christian Louboutins and climbed up the red steps barefoot, emulating Julia Roberts and Sasha Lane two years before.**

**Blanchett went barefoot in solidarity with women in Iran. Presenting the Iranian-French actress Zahra Amir Ebrahimi with a breakthrough artist award, she grabbed the trophy and joked: "This is to stab everyone who stands in the way of women's rights. Up the vajayjay!"**

**At a press conference yesterday for the film *May December*, Natalie Portman spoke about the different ways women were expected to act at Cannes, known as the most rigid event on the film festival calendar. "How we're supposed to look, how we're supposed to carry ourselves, the expectations are different for you all the time," she said. "It affects how you behave, whether you are buying into or rejecting it. You're defined by the social structures upon you."**



**If Blanchett's stand is the worst of it, Cannes' organisers will be relieved. The French trade union CGT promised to cut the power in protest against President Macron's pension reforms and large marches were planned. Yet the first week of the festival has passed with little of the anticipated drama between protesters and police.**

**Instead, the festival's imperious director, Thierry Frémaux, almost found himself on the wrong side of the law after he was stopped by an officer for speeding down the pavement on an electric bicycle.**

**"You hit me, it's on film. This is going to go very far," Frémaux shouts in a video of the incident that went viral. "A frank and cordial explanation took place," insisted the Cannes communications team, while the local authorities said the "non-issue" had ended with the pair shaking hands.**

**As the week began, Frémaux, 62, had caused consternation by saying he "didn't give a damn" about the controversial Amber Heard/Depp defamation trial.**

**The premiere of Depp's first film in three years was selected to open the festival, to the delight of the actor's defenders and the dismay of others, sparking the hashtag #CannesYouNot.**

News Politics

# Braverman owes us some answers, say senior Tories

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

Conservative MPs questioned Suella Braverman's judgment last night and said she had questions to answer over allegations that she had asked civil servants to help her avoid a speeding fine.

Senior Tories said the allegations intensified questions about the home secretary's contribution to the government after a series of controversies.

However, allies of Braverman said she was the victim of a smear campaign by opponents of immigration control.

The Sunday Times revealed that after being caught speeding last summer, while attorney-general, Braverman had opted to take a speed-awareness course rather than accept endorsement points. After she became home secretary in September, she asked civil servants if they could secure an arrangement for her to take a one-on-one course rather than attend an online or in-person event with up to 24 other people.

Officials refused the request to become involved in her personal affairs after taking advice from the Cabinet Office propriety and ethics team.

Sir Jake Berry, the former Conservative party chairman, expressed surprise at the involvement of civil servants, saying there were "definitely questions to be answered". He said people caught speeding should "take the medicine".

After Rishi Sunak appeared irritated at being asked about Braverman's behaviour during a G7 press conference in Hiroshima, one senior Tory backbencher said: "I don't blame Rishi for being visibly hacked off". They called the affair a "mega-distraction" for the government, saying that Braverman "now has form for this kind of error".

Braverman was forced by Liz Truss to resign as home secretary last October after she breached the ministerial code by sending an official document to a Tory backbencher from a personal email. She acknowledged a "mistake" calling it a "technical infringement".

Sunak reappointed her six days later but has faced questions about her attacks on the record of her department, including in a wide-ranging speech last week that was seen as a dress rehearsal for a future Tory leadership bid.

The Guardian reported last night that she had asked the chief whip for permission to miss a vote on her own small boats bill to announce higher police numbers. A source close to Braverman said it was "100 per cent untrue" that she wanted to miss the vote and any of her staff asking for permission had done so without her knowledge.

Another senior backbencher criticised Braverman's "administrative competency" and questioned whether Sunak needed her to keep the right of the Conservative Party onside. "It seems like a view has been taken that she speaks for a wing of the party, but she speaks for far fewer than might be imagined," they said.

Miriam Cates, another Conservative MP, said Braverman, 43, had done nothing wrong. "It's no coincidence that someone has leaked this private information in the same week that Suella has publicly spoken out about the need to reduce legal migration," she said.

"This is a huge issue for voters in constituencies like mine, but we know it is contentious for some in Whitehall. In smearing the home secretary like this, someone is clearly seeking to play the man, not the ball."

Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, said she trusted Braverman. She told Times Radio: "The home secretary has expressed regret for speeding in the first place. She did take the penalty".

Allies of Braverman said she had made a single request to Home Office civil servants for advice. When this was turned down after consultation with the Cabinet Office propriety and ethics team, she opted to pay a fine and accept points on her licence.

Angela Rayner, the Labour deputy leader, wrote to Sunak saying that Braverman's her actions appeared to be "a clear breach of the ministerial code and a potential dismissal offence".

She called on Sunak to show "some backbone and order his ethics adviser to investigate the home secretary to get to the bottom of this episode without further delay. The public have a right to know whether the minister responsible for law and order sought to abuse her position in an attempt to gain preferential treatment to avoid a speeding fine."

Andy Street, the Conservative mayor of the West Midlands, told Sky News: "The prime minister has made it absolutely clear that for him standards in public life is an absolutely critical issue … there is no compromise over it."

Dave Penman, general secretary of the FDA civil service union, said it was "clear there needs to be an investigation under the ministerial code". He told the BBC it was "really critical that there's a separation between personal interests and government business", saying that if she had asked civil servants to contact a company on her behalf "that's a breach of the ministerial code; that's something that should be investigated".

The ministerial code requires ministers to "ensure that no conflict arises, or could reasonably be perceived to arise, between their public duties and their private interests", as well as saying they must not ask civil servants to break the civil service code, which tells officials not to use their position to "further your private interests or those of others".



## Leaders conclude G7 with China warning

**China's aggression is the "biggest challenge of our age", Rishi Sunak has said (Henry Zeffman in Hiroshima writes).**

**At the end of a G7 summit which revealed the deep unease among the world's wealthiest democracies about Beijing's conduct, the prime minister described China as the "only country with both the means and intent to reshape the world order".**

**However, he echoed the views of other leaders that the G7 was "de-risking" rather than "decoupling" from China as they sought to bolster supply chains and tackle economic coercion.**

**"China poses the biggest challenge of our age to global security and prosperity. They are increasingly authoritarian at home and assertive abroad," Sunak said as his four-day visit to Japan came to a close.**

# Voters back Starmer to build homes after Sunak scraps targets

**Chris Smyth**

Voters back Sir Keir Starmer over Rishi Sunak on housing after a clear divide opened up between Labour and the Conservatives over the issue of homebuilding.

Just one in ten under-50s think the Conservatives have a better plan after the prime minister scrapped targets for new homes and ruled out building on the green belt.

Last week Starmer told The Times he would give councils new powers to build in the green belt in order to boost the supply of new housing, accusing the government of killing "the aspiration of homeowning for a whole generation".

Senior Conservative backbenchers are pressing Sunak to do more to build homes to try to rescue the party's dire ratings among the young, but a deep split has opened up with other MPs who fear local development will prompt a backlash from existing voters.

YouGov polling for The Times shows that 17 per cent of voters trust Sunak and the Conservatives more to make the right decisions about building new housing. Almost twice as many, 32 per cent, trust Starmer and Labour, although 37 per cent say they trust neither main party.

**Deciding Britain's housing**

Who would you trust more to make the right decisions about building new housing in Britain?

| | A Conservative government under Rishi Sunak | A Labour government under Keir Starmer | Neither | Don't know |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 17% | 32% | 37% | 14% |
| 18-24 | 12% | 43% | 29% | 17% |
| 25-49 | 10% | 37% | 34% | 19% |
| 50-64 | 19% | 30% | 40% | 11% |
| 65+ | 26% | 23% | 41% | 10% |

Source: YouGov

Among those who voted Conservative in 2019, 41 per cent trust neither side on housing, against only 39 per cent trusting Sunak.

Age is the biggest dividing line, with 43 per cent of those aged 18-24 and 37 per cent of those aged 25-29 backing Starmer. Just 12 per cent and 10 per cent of these groups respectively trust the Conservative position on building.

Simon Clarke, the former housing secretary, said: "People are deeply, deeply concerned about the dislocation of our housing market, and of course it is impacting our popularity."

He said that a shortage of affordable homes "feeds into so many of our biggest social problems, from productivity to fertility, and people want their government to address rather than admire the problem."

Clarke urged Sunak to "drop the tired shibboleth that every corner of the green belt is special or beautiful when so much of it is intensive agricultural land and golf course".

Sunak ruled this out last week, promising he would "make sure our green spaces are protected".

However, Andy Street, the Conservative West Midlands mayor, said that he should "never say never" on the green belt, adding that the party must "take tough decisions in favour of house building".

He told Sky News's *Sophy Ridge on Sunday* yesterday that the Conservatives had done well in the local elections in areas where they could prove they had delivered the housing young people wanted.

"If I look at the councils where we did really well we were demonstrating bringing derelict land back to life. We were building the homes," he said.

"As a consequence those young people say, yes, yes, the Conservative Party is the party that delivers for us, and that's the opportunity for us."

Street said that he was "definitely not" trying to attack the government, but argued that the West Midlands had met homebuilding targets by insisting on building on brownfield sites. "That's not an easy decision. It requires densification of our city centres, that's been done, and of course it requires a lot of public money".



Keir Starmer will give councils new powers on housing

He said that "occasionally" it would be right to build on the green belt, citing the Birmingham HS2 interchange. "The council there have been very brave and said we will have development around that to make the most of it, but it is very much the exception to the rule," he said.

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA; 10 DOWNING STREET HANDOUT



Rishi Sunak with Ursula von der Leyen and President Zelensky at the G7. Left, Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty. Zelensky spoke to President Biden, right

**The G7 announced a new team to root out and counter Russia and China's use of economic coercion to influence nations' decisions.**

**They also discussed concerns about Chinese aggression towards Taiwan.**

**"There is complete resolve and unity within the G7, first of all just recognising the systemic challenge that China poses to the world order," Sunak said.**

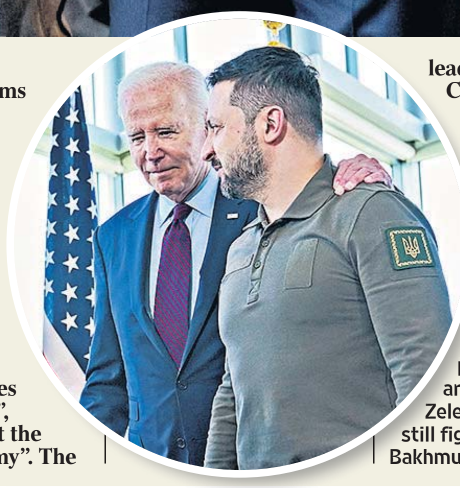
**He added that the leaders would work to reduce "vulnerabilities" in supply chains from China and protect their nations from "hostile investment".**

**"We also had conversations about ensuring that important technology pertinent to our security does not leak to China," he continued.**

**In its communiqué released on Saturday, the G7 nations issued their harshest rebuke yet of China.**

**The countries said they were "prepared to build constructive and stable relations" with China, but castigated its "expansive maritime claims in the South China Sea" and its "unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion".**

**They also took aim at China's "non-market policies and practices", which "distort the global economy". The leaders urged China to press Russia to stop its military aggression and withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately and without conditions.**



Trevor Phillips, page 21; leading article, page 25; Zelensky: We are still fighting for Bakhmut, page 27

# Big gains for Sinn Fein in council poll

**James Beal**

Michelle O'Neill, the vice-president of Sinn Fein, called for an end to the boycott of Stormont after her party became the largest in local government in Northern Ireland.

The party, already the largest in Stormont, made big gains in council elections, winning 144 seats, up from 105 in 2019. With all results declared the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) was in second place, holding on to its 122 seats; and the centrist Alliance Party was in third with 67 seats, up from 52.

O'Neill hailed the "momentous" results and said Sinn Fein's campaign was about "positive leadership" that had "resonated with the electorate".

She urged the British and Irish governments to deliver a plan to restore the Stormont power-sharing institution. "The onus is now on the British and Irish governments to get together and focus their efforts on the immediate restoration of the executive and assembly," she said. "We expect to see an early meeting of the British-Irish intergovernmental conference. The boycott of the assembly cannot go on and an executive must be formed."

Sinn Fein returned a 30.9 per cent share of first-preference votes, an increase of 7.7 percentage points, and achieved breakthroughs in Lisburn city and Ballymena. O'Neill added: "These results are a positive endorsement of Sinn Fein's message that workers, families and communities need to be supported and that the blocking of a new assembly by one party must end."

The DUP dropped by 0.8 percentage points to 23.3 per cent, with falls in first-preference vote share also for the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP).

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, the DUP leader, said: "Despite everything that's been thrown at us … the DUP vote has held up well. This election was always primarily about consolidating our vote and giving us the mandate we need to go to the government and to get the outcomes that are required to see Stormont restored."

Donaldson attributed the rise in Sinn Fein votes to the collapse of the SDLP, which won 39 seats, a loss of 20.

# PM pledges new package of measures to cut immigration

**Chris Smyth, Henry Zeffman**
Associate Political Editor, Hiroshima

Rishi Sunak has promised a renewed campaign against immigration, saying he is "crystal clear" that numbers must come down. Most foreign students face being banned from bringing family members to Britain as the prime minister prepares to finalise a package as soon as this week.

The Treasury, however, is thought to have killed plans to limit visas to lower-earning workers and restrict the time students can stay in the UK.

Official figures due on Thursday are expected to show net migration breaking another record.

Conservative MPs want immigration to come down quickly. In a sign of the pressure on Sunak from the right of the party, Priti Patel accused him of a "sticking plaster" approach. Speaking to the *Inside Whitehall* podcast, she said he had refused requests for cash to overhaul asylum-processing when he was chancellor.

Sunak pledged further restrictions. "On the topic of legal migration let me be crystal clear: I think the numbers are too high and I'm committed to bringing them down," he said during a trip to Japan.

"Without getting into specific measures, we're considering a range of options to bring numbers down and we'll have more to say on that shortly."

An announcement on a package of measures is expected in the coming weeks. They are likely to include a ban on students doing masters' degrees from bringing family members. Ministers have become concerned that some are using dependants' visas as a backdoor route to settling in Britain, with some students bringing in as many as six relatives.

There are, however, big variations by nationality. Chinese students bring one dependant for every 223 students, compared with one for every four from India.

PhD students, who are typically here for longer, are likely to be exempt from the ban. A Home Office desire to increase the £26,000 salary threshold for work visas is also likely to be rejected.

Sunak is also said to be sceptical about calls to restrict the right of foreign graduates to work in Britain for two years. Professor Brian Bell, chairman of the Migration Advisory Committee, told The Sunday Telegraph that "an offer to do anything you want for two years seems unnecessary to us".

The Treasury believes that foreign students boost the economy and keep inflation down by controlling wage increases and the Department for Education sees them as a money-spinner for universities.

Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary, appeared to side with them. She told Times Radio that the Office for Budget Responsibility "always tallies growth in migration with an increase in growth", insisting that numbers are "in our control" since Brexit.

# UN's 'hypocrisy' over Rwanda flights case

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

The Home Office has accused the UN of hypocrisy over the UK's Rwanda deportation plan in a fresh row between Britain and the UN's refugee agency.

The UNHCR runs a scheme that temporarily houses refugees in Gashora, Rwanda. The agency has played a part in a court appeal against UK policy to relocate Channel migrants to Rwanda. It says the African country is unsafe for asylum seekers.

A Home Office source said: "It seems hypocritical for UNHCR to be attacking our Rwanda scheme for pandering to populist tendencies and claiming it's unworkable while at the same time relocating asylum seekers to the country."

Danny Kruger, a Conservative MP, said: "I hope that the UNHCR and its lawyers will now cease efforts to frustrate government policy."

UNHCR was a supporting party to the Court of Appeal case against the Rwanda policy. A ruling is expected in the next three weeks, which could give the go-ahead for deportation flights.

Since 2021 the UNHCR emergency transit mechanism, working in collaboration with the African Union and the Rwandan government, has taken 1,600 refugees from the Middle East to a temporary camp in Gashora. Nearly 1,000 of them have since resettled in Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the US.

The UNHCR scheme also differs from the UK plan as is it is voluntary. Britain plans to force individuals who have crossed the Channel in small boats on to one-way flights.

The UNHCR in the UK said the Rwandan asylum system could not be relied on to fairly adjudicate claims and that asylum seekers were at risk of being sent back to their own countries.

It said that under its scheme refugees remained under the care of UNHCR, which adjudicated their claims pending resettlement in the West.

News

# Low-traffic zones 'just greenwashing'

Andrew Ellson

The government has been accused of "greenwashing" a key part of its active travel policy after the Department for Transport said it could give no evidence that low-traffic neighbourhoods reduced the number of miles driven.

An official responsible for the schemes, known as LTNs, which ministers present as environmentally friendly, said no studies on the effect on distance travelled had been requested because "LTNs don't exist to reduce miles driven".

The statement has alarmed campaigners who query LTNs' effect on the climate. Clair Battaglino, of Social and Environmental Justice, a group set up to lobby against LTNs, said: "Until we see better evidence, claims that LTNs are good for the planet are just greenwashing."

Greenwashing is the practice of using marketing spin to persuade the public that a product or policy is environmentally friendly when it is not.

In 2020, when hundreds of millions of pounds' funding was announced for LTNs and other schemes to encourage cycling and walking, the government said the cash would help Britain to "build back greener".

Since then LTN supporters have claimed that the schemes are a success by pointing to lower vehicle counts in and around some of the zones. Opponents say that even if a quarter of journeys are abandoned, which is far more than advocates claim can be expected, there could still be increases in distance driven because of the circuitous routes created for remaining traffic.

They say that if 40 vehicles an hour drove in an area before LTN restrictions were imposed, and each travelled 1km via the shortest route, then 40km would be driven in total. If a quarter of those journeys were abandoned after the introduction of the LTN but the remaining three quarters of trips became 500m longer, then the total kilometres driven would be 45.

That outcome could allow LTN advocates to celebrate a 25 per cent cut in traffic even though the distance driven and emissions created had increased by 12.5 per cent. This does not take into account extra engine idling in more congested boundary roads.

Whether distance driven rises or falls depends on the proportion of journeys abandoned and the average length of the diversions created.

Living Streets and the London Cycling Campaign (LCC), two charities that lobby for LTNs, claim that councils can expect 15 per cent of traffic to disappear but if 15 per cent of journeys are abandoned the previous example shows that the remaining journeys would only need to be 177m longer for the total distance to increase. The area covered by some recent LTNs means that diversions can add more than 2km to some journeys.

The Times asked the Department for Transport to supply evidence that LTNs reduced distance driven but it could not provide any. Asked why it had commissioned no research on this, an official said: "LTNs aren't about reducing mileage necessarily and it's for councils to choose the measures that they need."

They suggested that nitrogen dioxide counts in and around some LTNs showed that the schemes could cut pollution although opponents point out that such figures may be influenced by where the measurements are taken, the Ultra Low Emissions Zone in London and lower traffic since the pandemic.

The government said it had commissioned the University of Westminster to conduct an independent assessment of LTNs. The study will be led by Professor Rachel Aldred, who is a former LCC trustee.


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# Law to stop a killer dodging court delayed

Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

The government's pledge to force murderers to appear in court for sentencing is in doubt after Rishi Sunak failed to commit himself to making the change before the next election.

Ministers said this year that they would change the law so that killers who refused to attend sentencing hearings in person would be compelled to do so or face a longer sentence. It followed a string of high-profile cases in which criminals refused to appear in court.

Last month Thomas Cashman refused to appear in court to be sentenced for the murder of Olivia Pratt-Korbel, aged nine, in Liverpool.

Asked about the issue during his visit to Japan for the G7 summit, the prime minister recommitted himself to changing the law but declined to say that he would do so before the general election, which is almost certain to take place next year. "What happened to Olivia in the summer — my daughters are of a similar age and it's absolutely shocking," Sunak said. "With regards to that, we've got a commitment in place. It requires legislation and so we'll have to wait for the legislative opportunity but the commitment that we made stands."

Last month the aunt of Zara Aleena, 35, an aspiring lawyer who was murdered walking home last year, said that the law allowed convicts a "last bit of power that needs to be taken away".

## Quintagram® No 1634

**Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only**

1 Lustre, sheen (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Thin strip for fire lighting (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Delivered (a cricket ball) (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Marking as correct (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Passed by a competitor (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | B | C | D | E | E | E | G |
| G | I | I | I | K | K | L | L |
| L | L | N | N | O | O | O | P |
| R | S | S | S | T | T | V | W |

**Solutions** T2 MindGames p15
**Cryptic clues** T2 MindGames p14

## AI education warning

Human teaching must be at the heart of schools, says Sir Anthony Seldon, head teacher of Epsom College, amid concerns over "invidious and dangerous" artificial intelligence. A letter to The Times, signed by more than 60 education figures last week, said schools were "bewildered" by the rate of change. Seldon told Sky News's *Sophy Ridge On Sunday*, that some technologies, such as for marking, could allow teachers to spend more time with pupils. **AI fears, letters, page 24**

## Man held for murder

A man aged 77 has been arrested on suspicion of murder over the death of a woman in her seventies in Milton Keynes. The woman was found unconscious on Saturday morning and died in hospital. Detective Chief Inspector Dejan Avramovic said the police were not looking for anybody else in connection with the incident.

## Bus roof sheared off

Ten people were taken to hospital yesterday after a double-decker bus hit the underside of a railway bridge in Glasgow and sheared off its roof. Several others were treated at the scene. Network Rail said that its engineers would need to inspect the bridge before it could be used by trains again. First Bus said that one of its vehicles had been involved.

## Arnie's green reasoning

Climate protests have sprung up because people are fed up with governments failing to tackle the issue, according to Arnold Schwarzenegger. The actor and politician told the BBC's *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*: "People worldwide are angry about government because they just have excuses after excuses about why they cannot get it done."

## Mars quake discovery

The largest earthquake recorded on Mars has revealed that its crust is twice that of Earth's at 26 to 35 miles thick. Measuring 4.6 magnitude, it was picked up by a seismometer used as part of the Nasa Mars InSight mission. The "marsquake" was observed going around the planet three times, according to a report published in Geophysical Research Letters.

ROBERT PERRY FOR THE TIMES; POLICE SCOTLAND

# Police find passenger they didn't gambol on

When police stopped a drug dealer's car on a motorway, one of the occupants looked more than a little sheepish (Will Humphries writes).

Only weeks old, the Welsh mountain lamb was bleating in the back of the old, blue VW Golf next to a bag of chips.

Billy the police sniffer dog, more used to rounding up criminals than sheep, was brought in by the Road Policing Scotland officers and uncovered £7,000 worth of cocaine and £3,000 of heroin stashed in the vehicle.

Those in the car were charged with drug offences. Their arrests on the M74 saved the lamb from an uncertain future but its troubles were not over. Its health deteriorated quickly and two worried officers called on an unsuspecting farmer just after midnight on the day of the arrest to seek emergency help.

The farmer said the lamb appeared at "death's door" but perked up after being put into a heat box and given milk and a vitamin boost. The key to returning the lamb lay in the tag in its ear, which links each sheep with a specific farm.

However, officials at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs told the farmer that data protection rules forbade them from telling him which farm the sheep had come from. Instead, he had to ask the police to get the details from the government ministry to end the saga.

The first thing Kirsty Mair, 25, the owner of the stolen sheep, knew about the theft was when two police officers turned up in her yard.

She has since named the lamb Pablo, after the Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

Mair, who runs North Lanrigg Farm, near Motherwell, North Lanarkshire, with her father Robin, told The Times she had seen a social media post from Police Scotland on April 23 about the lamb.

"When I saw the picture I thought it looked an awful lot like the lambs I've been getting," she said. With more than 200 lambs in her flock and rushed off her feet while in the midst of lambing, she thought no more of it. That was until the police arrived.

Mair said she had never had sheep stolen before but suspects the thieves "weren't entirely sober".

The lamb, a premature twin, had been away too long to be returned to its mother. But Pablo still has a bright future and is being hand-reared to rejoin the flock.





A lamb found by police in a drug dealer's car has been returned to its owner, Kirsty Mair, who named it Pablo — after the drug lord Escobar — and will hand-rear it to rejoin the flock

# Co-star's ultimatum left Schofield with no choice but to quit show

**Alex Farber** Media Correspondent
**Mark Sellman**

Phillip Schofield was forced to quit *This Morning* after his co-presenter Holly Willoughby gave ITV an ultimatum.

He stepped down on Saturday after 21 years on the daytime sofa to "protect the show I love" because of a breakdown in their professional relationship.

Admitting that the feud had "become the story", Schofield, 61, said: "I understand that ITV has decided the current situation can't go on." His contract was due to be renewed in the summer.

The pair fell out over the trial of Schofield's brother for abusing a boy, a row about whether they had avoided the queue for Queen Elizabeth's lying in state and Willoughby's split from the presenters' management agency.

Schofield is to keep his other jobs on the channel and will present the *British Soap Awards* next month and host a new prime-time series. His statement did not mention Willoughby, however, although she later paid tribute to him, saying: "I want to take this opportunity to thank him for all of his knowledge, his experience and his humour. The sofa won't feel the same without him."





**Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby fell out over his brother's conviction for child abuse and other issues**

According to The Sun, Schofield has been given six months' pay. The newspaper reported, however, that he felt "devastated" by the handling of his departure. A source told the paper it was "so unjust" and that Schofield felt "completely broken". ITV did not respond to requests for comment.

Bosses at the station are looking to replace Schofield in the short term. Candidates include Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond, who will present the show on Fridays. They will also take over this week while Willoughby has a break.

One broadcasting executive said: "Holly made it clear it was her or Phil but he refused to go until he was given something else concrete that he could announce. Dermot is being lined up but there is no long-term solution yet."

Hammond, a former *Big Brother* contestant who also presents *The Great British Bake Off*, recently stepped in for Schofield and was well received.

Schofield and Willoughby, 42, have dominated daytime TV for nearly 14 years with their on-screen chemistry, although ratings have slipped recently.

Last Monday's episode had an average of 726,720 people watching compared with 1.4 million in the first four weeks of 2021. Week-on-week figures suggest that the feud was having an impact.

A second broadcaster said: "The show has been suffering in the ratings for quite a while and *Lorraine* [the ITV breakfast show] is also getting battered by BBC's *Morning Live*. Dermot makes a lot of sense, obviously."

*This Morning*'s troubles were even referenced in the House of Commons last week when Oliver Dowden, standing in for Rishi Sunak at prime minister's questions, said his opposite number, Angela Rayner, and Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, were "at each other's throats. They are the Phil and Holly of British politics."

The rift is not the first Schofield has suffered with *This Morning* presenters. His relationship with Fern Britton deteriorated and she quit in 2009.

**Guileless, smiley people on the TV, Polly Vernon, Times2, page 2**

# Hottest day of year so far heralds six warm weeks

**Andrew Ellson**

Britain is set for the warmest day of the year so far this week as high pressure builds from the Azores, with temperatures set to be above average for the next month and a half.

After cool Arctic winds capped temperatures in the teens for most of last week, the Met Office forecasted highs in the low to mid-twenties this week.

It predicted that most of the UK will enjoy warm and sunny weather for much of the week, though it will feel slightly warmer in the south than the north. Aside from a risk of the odd shower across Scotland and Northern Ireland courtesy of the tail end of some weather fronts there would be very little rain in the week ahead, it added.

Rachel Ayers, a senior meteorologist at the Met Office, said: "The warm weather … is due to high pressure bringing fine and bright weather across the UK and with the high-pressure system currently centred to the west of the UK, air is not being dragged across the UK from the Continent.

"It is likely we will see a new warmest day of the year so far this week as we go into the last full week of meteorological spring.

"Temperatures could peak in the low to mid-twenties by Thursday across southwest/western England or eastern Wales. However, with onshore breezes, especially along eastern coasts, it will feel cooler here."

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts said warmer-than-average temperatures were the most likely outcome for England each week for the next six weeks.

Aidan McGivern, of the Met Office, tweeted: "Consistent signal for above-average temperatures at least into the start of June."

**Weather, page 47**

# Classic FM off-key with listeners

**Peter Chappell**

Classic FM has fallen to its lowest audience levels on record after losing more than 400,000 listeners.

Britain's most popular classical music station had 4.5 million listeners a week as of March this year, compared with 4.9 million in the three months to Christmas. Some 940,000 listeners have turned off since March 2020, a 17.1 per cent drop from the pre-pandemic figure of 5.48 million.

Classic FM has been shedding listeners since the turn of the century, when 6 million tuned in a week. This is its smallest audience in the 23 years that Rajar, the industry body, has been publishing quarterly figures, with over-65s recording the sharpest recent fall.

The station has made changes to its schedule to attract younger audiences. One show, called *High Score*, was "dedicated to video game music" and hosted by Eímear Noone, a video games composer. In January it rolled out a five-part "positivity series" with the former *Love Island* star Dr Alex George.

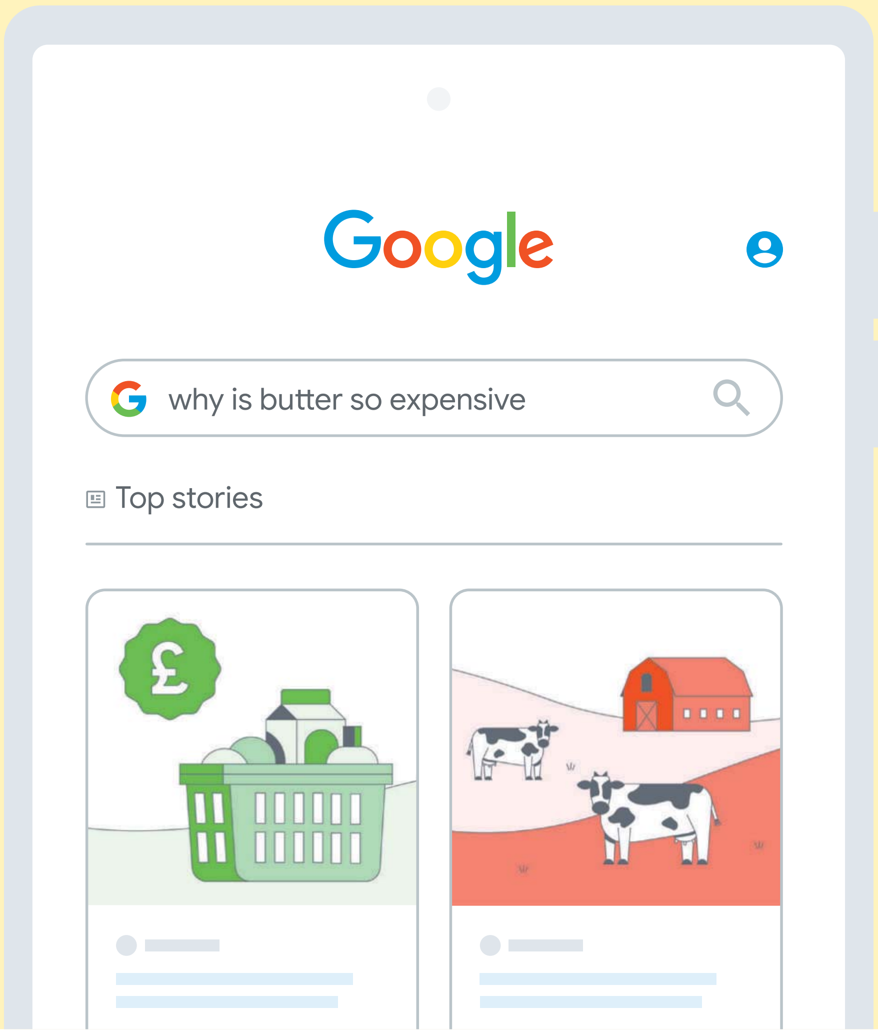
Classic FM is 2.6 million listeners ahead of its nearest rival, though others have not suffered the same drop in numbers. BBC Radio 3 added 64,000 listeners over the period, from 1.87 million to 1.93 million, and Scala Radio added 33,000, from 233,000 to 266,000.

David Lloyd, the co-founder of Boom Radio, told the Sunday Telegraph: "There are challenges for any station with an older audience in terms of tone, angles and topics."

Global, the parent company of Classic FM, declined to comment.

**Do speak up for Radio 4 — it's a classic too, Libby Purves, page 23**

# Find the facts




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*550% increase in the past 12 months, correct at 20 March 2023.



# Chelsea tunes in to the great decomposers

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE; OLIVER DIXON FOR THE TIMES



**Brian d'Souza's mushroom soundtrack will be played at Chelsea Flower Show. Lorraine Caley, left, says they're easy to grow**

**Lucy Bannerman**

First it was the weeds and wildflowers. Now it is the turn of mushrooms to take centre stage at the world's most famous flower show.

Thomas Carlyle, the Victorian philosopher, knew the value of good fungi, declaring that "nature alone is antique, and the oldest art a mushroom". Gardeners haven't always shared his enthusiasm: mushrooms have not traditionally been celebrated at the Chelsea Flower Show — perhaps, because, technically, they aren't even plants.

Now they will star in a show garden for the first time. They will also have their own exhibition in the Great Pavilion in another first for the show, which has its gala preview today.

The Centre for Mental Health's "Balance Garden" will feature a "mushroom den" made from a shipping container. The garden will also be alive with the sound of mushrooms thanks to Brian d'Souza, a sound designer who has attached electrodes to various fungi and will turn the "sounds" they emit into a track to be played from speakers throughout the garden.

"All life forms emit electronic signals," he said. "I've converted them into midi-notes which is a way of digitising music, and used that to compile a soundtrack."

For anyone who has never heard a mushroom before, he says the effect "is slightly unnerving. It's quite beguiling, uncanny, slightly moody, yet peaceful."

It is all part of the aim to celebrate mushrooms' "strange, unique beauty," said Jon Davies, who has designed the garden with Steve Williams at Wild City Studio. Purple lighting inside the container will highlight ten varieties of edible and medicinal mushrooms, from the oyster and shiitake to lesser-known types such as reishi mushrooms, used in Asian traditional medicine, and the lion's mane mushroom.

"They really glow," Davies said. "We're going to be able to showcase their strange and unique beauty while highlighting how these really cool and enigmatic things are fundamentally healthy for the garden."

The rise of veganism has fuelled demand for mushroom varieties as a meat substitute. Some clinical studies have shown that psilocybin, the active ingredient in "magic mushrooms", can help to treat anxiety, depression and addiction, although we don't yet understand why. One suggestion is that the drugs help the brain to form new connections. This year, Australia became the first country to legalise the use of psychedelics such as magic mushrooms as medicine. Psychiatrists will be able to prescribe psilocybin.

Mushrooms bring benefits for gardeners too, Williams said. "Connections are made between all the plants through the mycelium network. It's like the plants' internet. They can warn each other if there's anything happening — that's an amazing concept."

Mushrooms will also feature on logs around the garden, which uses crushed site waste as a growing medium for climate-resilient planting. It will be moved to a community garden in north London once the show is over.

Lorraine Caley, who runs a mushroom-growing business with her sister, said their sales were up fivefold in a year. They began growing mushrooms as a sideline from their garage in Surrey in 2019 and will present the first mushroom exhibition at the Great Pavilion. She said: "We want to demystify a lot of the curiosities around mushrooms. They are easy to grow — you don't have to have green fingers."

If there has been any resistance to mushrooms, as there has to the trend for looser, wilder planting, Caley hasn't seen it. "The roots of mushrooms within your soil will help your garden in the long run. Your plants will be more drought-tolerant. Your soil will be more diverse. You can get a healthier crop of fruit and veg if that's what you're growing. It also reduces weeds in your soil. I haven't heard of any resistance yet."

### Magic of mushrooms



- The largest living organism is a fungus in Oregon in the United States that covers 3.7 square miles (9.6 sq km) beneath the forest floor. It is 2,500 years old, weighs as much as 35,000 tonnes and glows in the dark.
- Neither plant nor animal, a mushroom's purpose is to spread spores. They make more than 50 megatonnes of these a year.
- The world's biggest collection of fungal specimens is kept at Kew Gardens.
- The shaggy inkcap, above, can break a concrete pavement.
- The ancestors of fungi appeared 400 million years ago, breaking down rock to create soil and enabling the existence of life.
- Fungi have helped to clean up diesel-contaminated soil, and can break down crude oil and plastics.
- In 2014 scientists reported that they had grown edible oyster mushrooms on a substance made from used nappies. The nappies' weight and volume was reduced by 80 per cent.

# Ministers give online touts 'free pass'

**Andrew Ellson**
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

MPs and campaigners have accused the government of giving online ticket touts a "free pass" after it rejected advice from the consumer watchdog to ban the bulk buying of seats at popular music and sports events.

The Department for Business and Trade has ignored recommendations by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to tighten laws to protect concertgoers and sports fans. Last week Kevin Hollinrake, minister for enterprise and markets, wrote to the watchdog to say the government did not believe the changes were "justified by the degree of harm" touts caused.

In August 2021, following an investigation, the watchdog published recommendations to help protect consumers from ticket touts. They included advice that the government should crack down on the bulk buying of seats and the practice of "speculative ticketing" where industrial-scale touts list tickets that they do not possess on platforms such as Viagogo and StubHub.

At the time, the watchdog said: "There are limits to what the CMA and other enforcers can do with their current powers. We want the government to take action to strengthen the current laws and introduce a licensing regime for secondary ticketing platforms. If adopted, these proposals will help prevent people getting ripped off by unscrupulous resellers online and we stand ready to help the government to implement them."

In his letter to the CMA, Hollinrake wrote: "I feel it is too soon to conclude that the only way forward is further legislation … here are a number of improvements to other aspects of consumer law which we have now published in our response to the 2021 consultation. These will be our priority in the immediate future."

Sharon Hodgson, the Labour MP who co-chairs the all-party group on ticket abuse, said her group was "struggling to understand why" the recommendations had been rejected. "The government has effectively given bad actors a free pass to continue acquiring tickets in bulk to popular events and to engage in speculative and fraudulent selling," she said. "These individuals can make extraordinary profits at the expense of ordinary fans."

Adam Webb, of the FanFair Alliance, which has campaigned for a change in the law and is backed by stars including Ed Sheeran, PJ Harvey and the Arctic Monkeys, said the problems identified by the CMA "remain rampant".

He added: "Despite overwhelming evidence of continuing bad practice, the government has today comprehensively rejected the CMA's advice — without, we believe, consulting with experts, campaigners or the live music industry. The experiences of consumers appear to have been overlooked."

The department said that it would keep developments under review.

# Downton Abbey set to lord it over TV again next year

**Mark Sellman**

Casting for *Downton Abbey* has begun in preparation for its return to the small screen for a new series, it has been claimed.

Carnival Films, which makes the period drama, is seeking to recruit the main stars Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and Elizabeth McGovern for a comeback on ITV, The Mail on Sunday reported. The plan is in "early stages" and the earliest the programme would be seen would be the end of 2024.

"There is a plan which is in development and there is a lot of excitement about," an insider told the paper. "There is casting taking place, and it would be great if all of the big stars can return."

The series, set on a Yorkshire country estate between 1912 and 1926, was ITV's most watched series. It ran for six seasons and spawned two spin-off films.

The drama is well watched on ITV's digital platform and the US show drew a strong following with each episode drawing 26 million people on average.

Lord Fellowes of West Stafford, the creator of the series, has previously suggested that he was open to doing more films. "The truth is if they want more and the cast want to do more, then I'm sure we'll find a way of delivering more," he said in May 2022. "But I don't mind if it's run its course, I think that's fair enough, too."

Bonneville suggested, however, that the format had run out of steam on the big screen. He told the Radio Times in August 2022: "I thought for a while that maybe there was an energy to do a third one, but I suspect that's probably not the case. I think we've probably quit on a high."

Carnival Films did not respond to requests for comment.

DAN HOWE/MAGNUS/ECHO MEDIA



**Huffin' and puffin** This falcon thought it had its lunch sorted when it swooped on a puffin mid-air at the Bempton Cliffs, East Yorkshire. Its prey eventually flapped free

# Give teachers 6.5% rise, says review body

**Ali Mitib**

Education union leaders have said that a recommended 6.5 per cent pay rise for teachers in England shows the government is "out of touch".

The School Teachers' Review Body has recommended that teachers get a pay rise two percentage points higher than the 4.3 per cent average offer made in March by Gillian Keegan, the education secretary, according to The Sunday Times. Sources told the newspaper that the review body had said the sector needed a bigger increase.

Patrick Roach, general secretary of the NASUWT teachers' union, said the review body's report was evidence that "the government is out of touch and that its position is no longer credible".

He added: "Our message to the secretary of state is that she has the opportunity to prevent further industrial action by agreeing to work with us to secure a deal for this year and next year that our members are willing to support."

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "The independent School Teachers' Review Body has submitted its recommendations to government on teacher pay for 2023-24. We will be considering the recommendations and will publish our response in the usual way."

# 1.7m pupils regularly missing school

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

About 1.7 million children are regularly absent from school while more than 125,000 are "ghost children" who are missing most of their schooling, according to official figures.

MPs accused the government of failing to take the issue of attendance seriously after data showed that the number of children severely absent from school was still far above pre-pandemic levels.

A rise in mental health problems and a culture of staying at home during lockdowns are thought to be among reasons that the number of children absent more than 50 per cent of the time has doubled since the start of the pandemic. Severely absent children are most likely to become both perpetrators and victims of crime. The figures are highest in deprived areas. In Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Bradford more than one pupil per secondary school class is missing most of the time.

The alarm was raised last year about children who appeared not to have returned to school after the pandemic, and absence is still stubbornly high.

Persistent absence is defined as missing more than 10 per cent of school, and numbers had fallen after a crackdown on term-term holidays. However, the rate has almost doubled from 13 per cent before the pandemic to 24 per cent. This means 1.7 million children are missing school regularly.

Severe absence is missing more than 50 per cent of school days. This number was creeping up before the pandemic, but has rocketed from 60,244 in autumn 2019 to 125,222 in autumn last year. This means 1.7 per cent of pupils are missing most of their schooling, rising to 2.8 per cent in secondary schools.

The figure is down on the 141,000 severely absent pupils last summer, but Joe Shalam of the Centre for Social Justice think tank said numbers tended to dip in the first term of the school year, warning that they looked set to rise again next term. "The drivers are complex," he said, "including a surge in mental health problems since school shutdowns. But we know that attendance mentors work by helping severely absent pupils and their families to re-engage. Government has recognised this, but its local pilot reaches just 1 per cent of these so-called ghost children."

Robin Walker, the Conservative chairman of the education select committee, which has opened an inquiry, said: "Post-pandemic there was hope that attendance levels would pick back up again, but clearly they are not — and to quite an alarming degree."

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the former Tory leader, said: "Abandoning a cohort of children to absence will send a shockwave through society as they grow up, leaving a trail of unemployment, crime and wasted lives."

Nick Gibb, the schools minister, pointed to a pilot of attendance hubs that will assign mentors to 1,665 children. He said: "The vast majority of children are currently in school and learning. Though pupil attendance is continuing to recover, the pandemic has still had a real impact on pupil absence in school. That is why we're expanding some of our most important attendance measures."




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# A third of young Manchester Arena survivors haven't had support

**Tom Ball** Northern Correspondent

Nearly a third of the children who survived the Manchester Arena bombing have had no professional support, according to a report published on the sixth anniversary of the attack.

Twenty-two people were killed and hundreds injured when Salman Abedi detonated a suicide bomb in the foyer of the venue at the end of an Ariana Grande concert on May 22, 2017.

Three quarters of children and young people who were at the venue that night were psychologically damaged, according to a report by researchers at Lancaster University and the National Emergencies Trust.

Twenty-nine per cent have never received professional support in the six years since. Of those, four in ten said it was never offered to them.

The government is expected to finalise within a few weeks a draft of a "survivor's charter" to guarantee rights for survivors of terrorist attacks. It is expected to include a guaranteed timeline for mental health support.

The Prince of Wales, patron of the National Emergencies Trust, said the report showed that young people who had been victims of terrorism had needs "unique to their age". "These are minds that need the space to have their voices heard and feelings acknowledged. We must listen to their stories now in order to learn for the future," William said.

The report, titled Bee the Difference, found that 93 per cent of young survivors felt they needed support after the attack, but 70 per cent received no professional help within a month and 31 per cent received none within a year. More than 200 young survivors took part in the research. All were under 18 at the time, and some were injured.

While some of the professional help offered by teachers, counsellors and GPs was helpful, some made matters worse, the report said.

One survivor said: "The tutor told me that I should take the attack as a positive experience — that this 'hardship' would make me a stronger person. He said not many young people experience hardships nowadays. This felt totally insensitive."

Mhairi Sharp, head of the National Emergencies Trust, said: "There has been a glaring gap in knowledge about how UK disasters affect children and young people. Six years after the attack almost one in four young Manchester survivors continue to receive psychological support today."

# Grandmother found dead on Greek island

**Peter Chappell**

A grandmother who vanished on a Greek island during a family holiday three weeks ago has been found dead.

Susan Hart, 74, from Bath, was in Telendos with her husband, Ed, when she disappeared on April 30.

She had been showing signs of dementia but had not been given a diagnosis and went missing when her husband went climbing.

She had stayed behind to read because of her health problems. When the family returned to where they had left her she was gone.

Her daughter, Ruth Landale, said the family was devastated. Her stepfather had identified her mother's body, she said. It will be repatriated to Switzerland where Hart was a resident. A postmortem examination is expected to be carried out in Greece.

Hart leaves three daughters who grew up in Bath but now live in Canada, Australia and London with their young families.

Landale said her mother had been showing symptoms of dementia over the past few years. She had put out a plea for information about her whereabouts four days ago. "It's been a stressful and distressing time for the whole family," she said.

Telendos is a small island about half a mile off the coast of Kalymnos in the Aegean.

The tiny island is shaped like a semicircle. There is a single, steep, flat-top mountain the sides of which drop directly down to the sea. The only settlement is at the southern tip of the island, where the land is flat.

A Foreign Office spokesman confirmed that staff were providing consular assistance to the family and were in contact with the local authorities.

RODRIGO OROPEZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Dior's creative director was inspired by Frida Kahlo, the Mexican artist, and the models had Kahlo-esque plaits and wore butterfly necklaces

## The spirit of Kahlo blossoms in the rain at Dior's new show

**It's seven years since Maria Grazia Chiuri became creative director at Dior, and seven years too that she has dreamt of presenting a collection in Mexico. On Saturday she finally pulled it off (Anna Murphy writes). "It was the first country I thought of," she said backstage before the show. "But I was told it was too complicated."**

**Why Mexico City? "Because the Frida Kahlo exhibition I saw in Rome when I was growing up was the first I ever saw by a female artist and it made a huge impression. She was talking about so many things that we talk about now. Identity, gender, the body. And she set out creating herself and recreating herself through clothes."**

**The locus for this latest Cruise presentation was the multi-colonnaded square at the centre of the Jesuit-founded college where Kahlo studied and met her future partner Diego Rivera. The unplanned aspect of proceedings was the torrential rain.**

**As for the clothes, that signature Kahlo switcheroo between the feminine and masculine was centre stage. For every lace frock or full skirt there was a mannish suit, or plain shirting that evoked a painter's smock. The models had Kahlo-esque plaits and wore butterfly necklaces. A framed collection of butterflies still sits above the late artist's bed in Casa Azul, her home in the city, now a museum. It was originally put there so that she had something to look at during her many illnesses.**

**One striking pink gown was inspired by an example worn by Kahlo in one of her self-portraits. Twenty white dresses had been embroidered with red hearts to evoke another of her works.**

**The diverse artisanship of the country also played a leading role. One of the brand's signature bar jackets in white was given a new dimension by way of multicoloured needlework at the waist. Square-cut garments referenced the simple lines of the handwoven and embroidered tunic known as the *huipil*.**

**Part of the motivation for Chiuri, she explained, was to showcase "how traditional craftmanship can be modernised for a new customer. It's important for the survival of these precious skills."**

# Methodist Church 'unsafe for women'

**Kaya Burgess**
Religious Affairs Correspondent

There is a "misogynistic and toxic" attitude towards women in the Methodist Church and many have reported inappropriate touching, lewd remarks and bullying, according to an internal review seen by The Times.

A report said that the Methodist Church was "not seen as a safe place" and criticised senior leaders' "failure to respond" to allegations of abusive or discriminatory behaviour, contributing to a "difficult environment" for women.

There are 164,000 active members in 4,004 Methodist churches in Britain.

The report was compiled by Meg Munn, a former Labour MP who works with churches on safeguarding policies. It said: "Some victims and survivors told me that there is a culture of sexism within the Methodist Church. In the words of one woman, the culture is 'misogynistic and toxic'.

"This included commenting on clothing, inappropriate touching, lewd remarks and demeaning asides, sometimes of an explicit nature. Women spoke of being belittled by men."

Church leaders must "seek to understand why the church continues to be unsafe", the report added. It noted that "most of the leaders in the church are male", adding: "Some men are comfortable with having that privilege and are content to benefit from it."

The report was commissioned as "an internal inquiry … not intended to be published", though Munn was told that it "may lead to changes in church procedures". A copy was shared with The Times by a source concerned that lessons would not be learnt if its conclusions were not made public.

The report said the church should review why its training programmes "have not led to [a] better response, particularly from some senior leaders". It cited an internal review of "past cases", which noted: "The culture is made unsafe not only by the actions of the perpetrators, but also by the actions of those in authority … who have failed to respond in a way that recognises the reality of the abuse."

The report was commissioned after Rev Steven Wild, who was president of the Methodist Conference from 2015 to 2016, faced complaints. He was suspended as chairman of a regional Methodist district in September 2021. The church said the complaints "did not relate to children" but that no further details could be discussed.

Wild said in a statement last year: "I categorically deny that I have ever — or would ever — intentionally behave in a way that would bring the church that I have loved and faithfully served for over 40 years into disrepute."

A church insider said the report should be presented to the meeting of the Methodist Conference next month "like a fire engine with its sirens blaring", but that "the failings and actions of senior ministers will not be shared".

A spokeswoman for the church said: "We recognise that there are reported incidents of sexism and misogyny within our church, and properly listening and responding to those who have been abused still needs to improve."

She said the church had introduced a service for victims of abuse and developed an anti-bullying policy as part of a review of its safeguarding strategy, adding: "As part of this report we spoke to many survivors, and we are grateful that they were willing to describe their experiences … We will study the recommendations of this report carefully and use them as we continue our work to improve our response to survivors of abuse."

News

# Children at British schools in China march with guns

**James Beal** Social Affairs Editor

Videos show children from British schools in China marching with guns in military uniform and pledging to "protect the motherland".

In footage from Wuhan, children change from relaxed pupils in school clothes in one clip to goose-stepping cadets in military uniform with rifles and the Chinese flag. The video was posted on Chinese social media by the official channel of "Wuhan Cranleigh", according to a report on Mail Online.

It is one of two schools in China for which Cranleigh, the public school based in Surrey, provides a sixth-form curriculum. Cranleigh said the children in the video were younger than sixth-form age.

Separate video was posted by the partner school of Sedbergh — the public school in Cumbria — in Fuzhou, China, which charges up to £23,090 per year. It featured a young boy dressed in military fatigues saying that the "seeds of patriotism" were in his heart and vowing to "protect the motherland".

China's regulations have forced British-branded private schools to abandon their curriculums to uphold the leadership of the Communist Party. The schools are told to use state-approved textbooks to teach history, geography and "ideology and morality". History textbooks teach about the "great cause of the reunification of the motherland" and "correct thinking" about Hong Kong and Taiwan, according to reports.

According to ISC, which provides data on international schools, 77 British-branded private schools including Harrow, Dulwich, Malvern and Wellington, operate in China. The China Britain Business Council said school partnerships typically earned £250,000 through the initial sale of a brand name. More can then be received through consultancy fees.

Benedict Rogers, chief executive of NGO Hong Kong Watch, said that it was "dangerous" for British-branded private schools to be teaching Chinese Communist Party "propaganda".

Martin Reader, head teacher of Cranleigh School, said: "Cranleigh partners with Cogdel Education on the provision of a sixth-form curriculum only to two schools in China."

David Milner, Sedbergh's director of international relations, said: "The little boy in the video is sharing a poem called *I Love My Dad*. The boy's dad is a soldier. It was part of a dress-up day in celebration of World Book Day."

# New-found species 'already face extinction'

**Nadeem Badshah**

Many of the 380 species discovered recently in one of Asia's biodiversity hotspots are already facing extinction, according to a new report.

A total of 290 plant species, plus 20 fish, 24 amphibians, 46 reptiles and one mammal have been found in the Greater Mekong region, covering parts of Cambodia, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, over the past two years. They include a colour-changing lizard, a poisonous snake named after the Chinese mythological deity Bai Suzhen, a thick-thumbed bat and a tree frog with skin that resembles thick moss. However, conservationists say that many of them are already under threat of extinction from habitat loss, deforestation and the illegal wildlife trade.

The World Wide Fund for Nature, which published the findings, is calling on governments to increase protection for rare species and commit to halting and reversing nature loss.





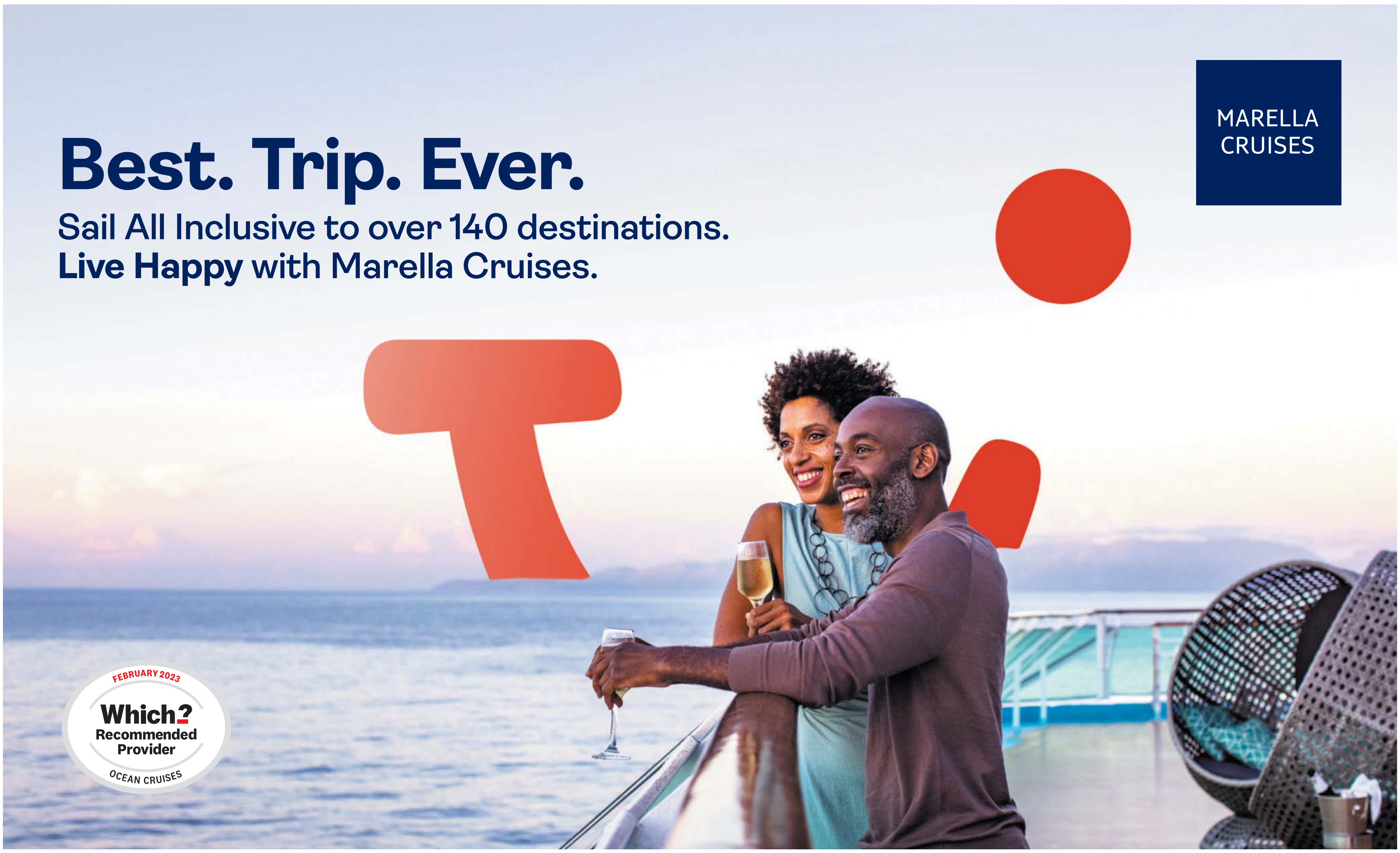
## Double amputee conquers Everest

**A former Gurkha soldier who lost both legs in a bomb blast in Afghanistan has become the first double above-the-knee amputee to scale Everest (Will Humphries writes).**

**Hari Budha Magar, 43, who lives in Canterbury, Kent, completed the feat just under a week shy of the 70th anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay becoming the first climbers to conquer the world's tallest mountain.**

**Reaching the summit of the 29,000ft peak at about 3pm on Friday, the first photograph of him on top of the world could not be sent until Sunday, after he had completed his descent.**

**Speaking over satellite phone, Budha Magar said: "That was tough. Harder than I could have ever imagined. When things got really tough it was the thought of my amazing family**


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Hari Budha Magar, a former Gurkha who lost his legs in an explosion, used special prosthetics

**and everyone who's helped me get on to the mountain that pushed me to the top. Without the support of so many, this expedition simply wouldn't have been possible."**

**Budha Magar and his team used a unique set of kit including custom-made prosthetics with built-in heating, interchangeable feet and extra-thick gloves because he uses his hands more. He describes his gait as "like a penguin", requiring about 30 per cent more energy than an able-bodied climber. At the top, he shouted "We did it!", in recognition of the team of Nepalese climbers who helped him, including the expedition leader Krish Thapa of HST Adventures, another former Gurkha, SAS mountain leader and distinguished explorer.**

**"I first planned this expedition back in 2018, but it feels a little more special to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Everest's first summit, with another world first," Budha Magar said. "My big goals were simply to change perceptions on disability and to inspire other people to climb their own mountains."**

**The expedition motto was: "No legs, no limits."**

**Mark Inglis, from New Zealand, was the first double amputee to reach the summit of Everest, in 2006, although his legs were amputated below the knee.**

**Budha Magar served 15 years in the Gurkha regiment before an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on patrol in Afghanistan in 2010.**

**Together with Thapa, Budha Magar has climbed Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Mont Blanc in western Europe and Mera Peak in Nepal.**

**He is raising money for five veteran charities — Team Forces, the Gurkha Welfare Trust, Pilgrim Bandits, Blesma, and On Course Foundation.**

# 'Black only' theatre night faces backlash

**Tom Witherow**

A theatre's decision to urge white people not to attend a play is "misguided and a bit sinister", a former cabinet minister has said.

The Theatre Royal Stratford East, in east London, said white patrons should not go to a performance of *Tambo & Bones* on July 5 so the audience can enjoy it "free from the white gaze". The "Black Out" event, one of a run of 29 performances, aims to create a "safe, private" space and allow an "all-black-identifying audience" to explore race relations, organisers said.

The show, described as "a distorted minstrel show meets hip-hop concert", faces a backlash. Damian Green, the former first secretary of state, told The Times: "Putting on a public show and then asking people of a certain ethnicity not to come is misguided and a bit sinister."

Wanjiru Njoya, a senior law lecturer at the University of Exeter who has written a book on racial diversity, said: "If white people did a show and excluded black people for one night only, there would be an outcry." She criticised the idea that there is "good racism" and "bad racism", adding: "They wouldn't like it if anyone was racist to them. Why do they think it's OK to be racist to white people?"

Giles Watling, the Tory MP for Clacton, who has five decades of experience working in theatre and chairs the parliamentary all-party group for theatre, said: "Everyone, no matter their sex, race, or colour should be able to access all theatre, otherwise we risk putting people into echo chambers, hearing only one side of any debate. In a world crying out for unity and amity, I believe this is a big mistake."

The concept of Black Out nights began on Broadway in 2019 with *Slave Play*, written by Jeremy O Harris. The idea was brought to London's Almeida Theatre with his show *Daddy*.

The director of *Tambo & Bones*, Matthew Xia, argued it was imperative the theatre "created a space" where black theatregoers could "explore complex, nuanced race-related issues". He was backed by Sir Trevor Phillips, former chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, who described it as "fine" and "lawful". "If I'm around, I think I might go along to see how it works," he said.

*Tambo & Bones* opened in the United States last year and is a satirical take on 300 years of African-American history. Its title characters begin the play trapped as minstrels before becoming hip-hop superstars and later Black Lives Matter activists. Reviews for the US run were lukewarm.

The Theatre Royal Stratford East said the spirit of Black Out nights involved "congregation, celebration and healing". While the event had been arranged for a black audience, "no one is excluded from attending", it said.



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# A feat of endurance for star and her audience

**Theatre** Clive Davis

**The Second Woman**
Young Vic, SE1
★★★★☆

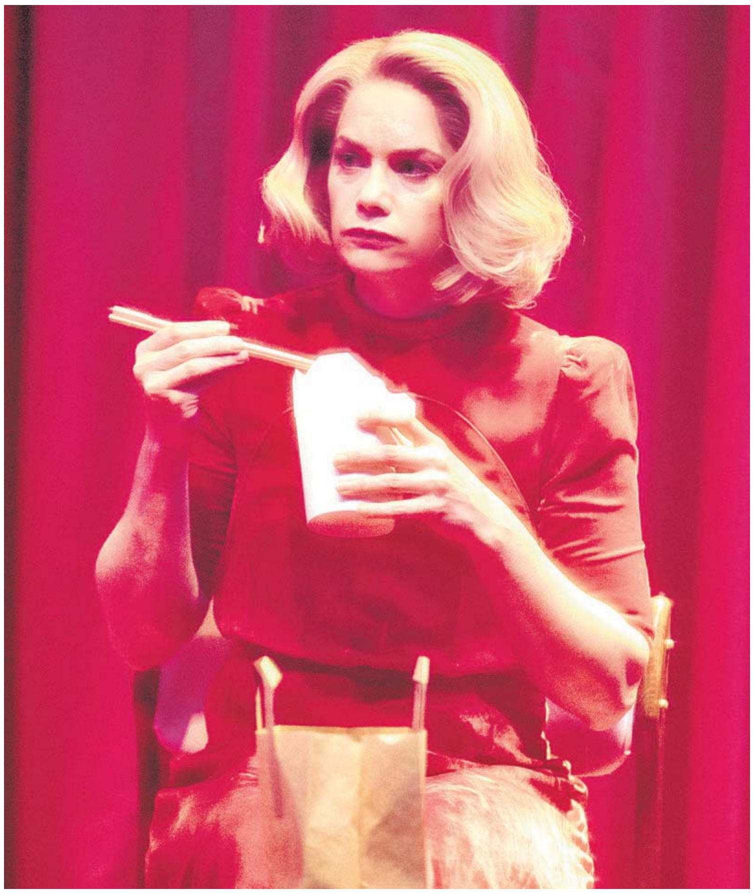
Would the audience have the stamina for a 24-hour play? Yes, Ruth Wilson really was on stage, with brief rests, from 4pm on Friday to the same time the following day. But in the end this weird but hypnotic piece, created by Nat Randall and Anna Breckon and first staged in Australia, was a lot closer to performance art than a play.

Anyone who stuck it out had an opportunity to spot VIPs among Wilson's 100 partners, mostly amateurs, all performing the same seven-minute scene involving two characters, Virginia and Marty, caught in a crumbling relationship (Wilson had rehearsed with none of them). The first surprise came about an hour and a half in, when the playwright Jack Thorne entered, manfully delivering his lines. Toby Jones, Andrew Scott and Idris Elba were among those who popped by later.

In this one-off co-production between the Young Vic and London International Festival, Wilson began by staring into space inside a gauze-lined room, two camera operators providing close-ups on a screen at the right. After Marty arrived with a Chinese takeaway, the brooding Virginia sought reassurance that her looks had not faded before launching a handful of noodles in his direction. As they briefly danced to a funky tune, Virginia's legs slowly gave way, leaving Marty to struggle to keep her upright. At the end she sent each lover away with some cash.

As the encounter looped around again and again, you could let your mind dwell on minor details. The men were free to add to some of their lines. Wilson responded like a seasoned boxer, throwing feints as she eyed her opponent. Sometimes she seemed to let pauses lengthen into eternity. It was neat as well to see her sipping the same brand of Scotch that Gena Rowlands knocks back in *Opening Night*, the John Cassavetes film about a troubled actress that inspired this show.

HELEN MURRAY



**Ruth Wilson, who performed the same scene with 100 male partners over the course of 24 hours, is unlikely to want to eat noodles for a while**

Cynics might argue that the whole enterprise was driven by a love for celebrity-gazing and a very British passion for queueing. Some of the punters I spoke to afterwards had waited outside for four hours to nab a seat that someone had given up. I made the mistake of leaving for a break early on, only to discover that half of hipster London was waiting to take my place. Luckily I managed to squeeze back in before the end but I have only admiration for the few who stuck it out for the whole 24 hours. Wilson herself seemed remarkably fresh, punching the air at the close. I doubt she will be eating noodles again for a while.

There were some annoyances besides the lumbering queuing system. The sound system was frustratingly patchy, sometimes leaving you to rely on the unpredictably paced surtitles; and if you were sitting on the right-hand side of the auditorium you had a less than ideal view. By the end, though, the applause was overwhelming. People cheerfully stumbled out into the daylight like miners rescued from deep underground.

# Muslim protest disrupts film screening

**Ali Mitib**

Muslim protesters have disrupted the screening of a Bollywood film that they say destroys "religious harmony" with its portrayal of an Indian state as a hub of Islamic terrorism and forced conversions.

A group led by Shakeel Afsar, a Kashmiri independence activist, disrupted a screening of *The Kerala Story* on Friday at a Cineworld cinema in Birmingham. In a ten-minute video uploaded by 5Pillars, a British Muslim news website, Afsar, 35, claimed that the film was propaganda from India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a right-wing Hindu nationalist paramilitary organisation.

*The Kerala Story* has been criticised for a teaser trailer saying that it tells the "heart-breaking and gut-wrenching stories of 32,000 females" from the southern state who were forced to convert to Islam and become terrorists for the Islamic State group.



**Shakeel Afsar led the protest at a Birmingham cinema**

That figure has been debunked by Alt News, an Indian fact-checking website, that said there was no evidence to support it. A US State Department report found that there were "66 known Indian-origin fighters affiliated" with Isis as of November 2020 but the Indian organisation National Investigation Agency said it had arrested 168 people in connection with 37 cases "of terror attacks, conspiracy, and funding" inspired by Isis ideology as of September 2021.

Filmmakers agreed to remove the trailer but they insisted that the film was based on true events and years of research.

Politicians from Kerala, where more than a quarter of the population is Muslim, have repeatedly called for the film to be banned, accusing it of demonising Muslims and peddling Islamophobia. The film, which has been praised by Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, has been exempted from tax by two BJP-run state governments in India.

In a video of the protest in Birmingham, Afsar, who was joined by at least two others, is seen accusing the audience of being members of the BJP and RSS, and asking to speak to the manager about the "Islamophobic nature" of the film.

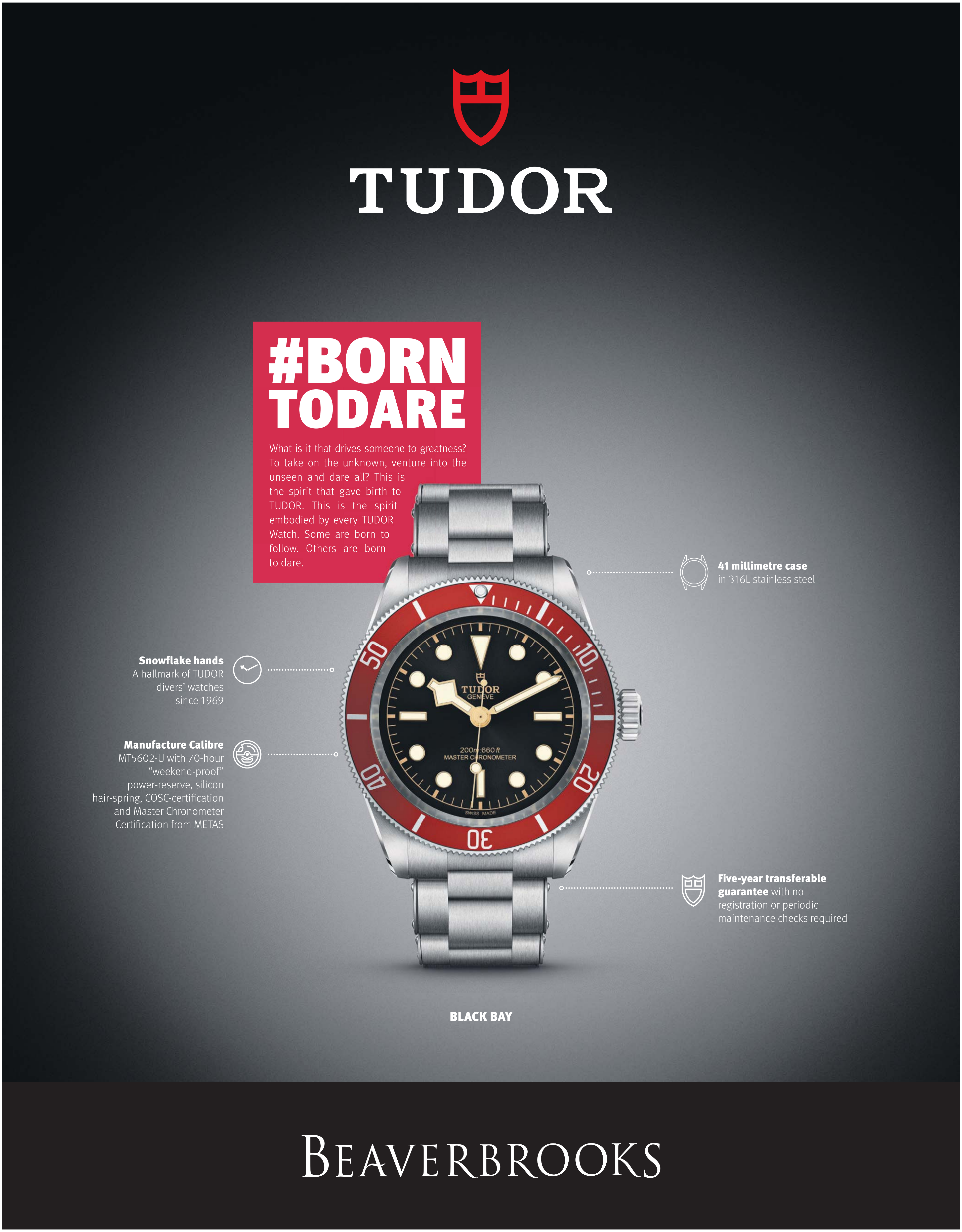
"This film is lies," he said. "This film is made to divide us. We have lived together for many years … Narendra Modi has endorsed this film. An extremist has endorsed this film. We will not allow it." He said that Cineworld should be ashamed for having shown it.

Cineworld staff had to pause the screening as audience members started shouting at the protesters to get out. Afsar was escorted out of the cinema chanting: "Free Kashmir".

The protests come less than a year after Afsar, a property developer, successfully led a campaign to pull *The Lady of Heaven*, a film about Islamic history, from cinemas. In 2019 he was banned from protesting outside Anderton Park primary school in Birmingham after he led a demonstration against the teaching of LGBT equality.

Muslim Engagement and Development, an advocacy group, has encouraged its supporters to lobby cinemas to cancel the screening of *The Kerala Story*, which it claimed would "no doubt fuel Islamophobic tensions and divisiveness". The film, which was released on May 12, is also being screened across the country by Odeon and Vue cinemas. Cineworld did not respond to a request for comment.




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**Revealed: expert the Cabinet Office cancelled**
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# Comment

# G7 must wake up to power of global south

## Unlike in Kissinger's heyday, fast-developing countries will not be brought easily to heel by Washington and London




@TREVORPTWEETS

Henry Kissinger, this week celebrating his 100th birthday, was just one of the many topics on which my father and I disagreed. To be fair, my dad was probably more exercised by my late-1960s dress sense — gigantic bell bottoms, hippie headband and out-of-control Afro — than my politics. But in my eyes, Nixon's former secretary of state was little more than a vicious warmonger; worse, he first opposed the bombing of Viet Cong bases in Cambodia, then became a cheerleader for the killing of more than 100,000 Cambodians. That marked him out to me as a conscience-free opportunist.

My father, in his role as a minor functionary on the campus of Columbia University, had seen him in action at a private foreign policy seminar. While he didn't tell me much of what Kissinger had to say about geopolitics, the huge secret-service detail clearly impressed the hell out of everyone. Simultaneously, his waggish nod to his own reputation as an unlikely ladies' man — he really did say "power is the ultimate aphrodisiac" — gave him an air of glamour that had eluded American politics since the Kennedys.

Half a century on, the intellect still dazzles. In his latest interviews he warns against complacency about the impact of new technologies and advises that Ukraine needs to be within Nato, not just to protect the country but to restrain it. He astutely observes that Zelensky's government may become the best-armed war-fighting machine in the world — but may also lack the experience to use their new weapons wisely.

But the architect of Nixon's dramatic 1972 rapprochement with China (is there any other opera written about a foreign policy triumph?) remains consumed by the threat from Beijing, warning that the alliance with Putin is dangerous and unstable: "I have never met a Russian leader who said anything good about China, and I've never met a Chinese leader who said anything good about Russia." He should know.

But puzzlingly, to my mind, he has little to say about one of the most striking recent developments in the global game: the re-emergence of non-alignment. When the UN general assembly voted on a non-binding resolution calling on the Russians to withdraw from Ukraine, 141 nations supported the call. But

> 32 nations abstained from condemning Putin's invasion

significantly, 32 abstained. Among them were China, India, Pakistan, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Leaders representing more than two fifths of humanity could not bring themselves to condemn Putin's invasion, some grumbling that European wars aren't the concern of nations struggling to feed their own people.

Perhaps Kissinger believes these abstentionists will come to heel when it matters, just as they used to. The point the old sage may be missing is that, though many of the names are the same, today's non-aligned movement is not the beast launched back in 1955 when 29 nations gathered in Bandung, Indonesia. Activists from territories yet to be decolonised — Cyprus, South Africa — lobbied in the margins. They weren't all friends. China's Zhou Enlai described India's leader Jawaharlal Nehru as the most arrogant man he had ever met. But while they all regarded imperialism as their common enemy, they were reluctant to toe the Soviet line. Kwame Nkrumah, soon to be prime minister of Ghana, rallied them with the slogan: "Neither east nor west, we face forward." But in truth, everyone knew where power still lay: Washington, London, Paris and Moscow. Most of the self-styled non-aligned states were economically and militarily dependent on their former colonial masters. Bandung was a meeting of the weak, poor and impotent. Big-power strategists such as Kissinger and the Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko could afford to take them for granted.

Today, a similar gathering of the "global south" would have a very different tone, more assertive, less anxious. Some have serious weapons: India, Pakistan and Iran are nuclear-capable. G7 finance ministers seek the approval of the oil-rich nations who hold much of their burgeoning debt. No one is going to do energy deals with Russia for a long time; so Qatar and Nigeria punch way above their strategic weight. Foreign ministers anxiously monitor the stability of countries with significant natural resources on which the iPhone economy depends: without Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, Congo and South Africa the semiconductor shortage will turn into a disaster.

Then there are the people. Decolonisation brought democracy. The West can no longer depend on compliant leaders to deliver automatic co-operation, as recently



**Henry Kissinger's version of realpolitik paid little attention to public opinion**

demonstrated by South Africa's enabling of arms supplies to Russia. The long history of ties between the ANC and Moscow won't be undone with a quick phone call from London or Washington. While the West was denouncing Nelson Mandela as a terrorist, South Africans recall that Russians were training Umkhonto we Sizwe activists in bomb-making. And in the homes and farms where trees are felled to keep children warm, lectures about the climate emergency from nations that have been polluting the atmosphere for two centuries do not go down well.

Perhaps it is understandable that Kissinger glosses over all this. In his world, public opinion never mattered much. The academic's vision of realpolitik, forged in his studies of the 19th-century diplomacy of Metternich and others, assumes that once leaders have made an agreement among themselves, their people will either follow blindly or else be compelled to see the light. The Cold War allowed the West the luxury of telling other nations that if they were not with us, they must be against us. But those days are over.

It is hardly surprising that the G7 leaders saw fit to invite Brazil, India, Indonesia and Vietnam to join their deliberations last week. But nations

> Taiwan cannot be protected from Beijing with western bluster

being wooed by China's Belt and Road dollars need to see real benefits from the relationship. And the global south will drive a hard bargain; they'll want more than a few more aid dollars. If we close our doors to workers and students from these nations their people will one day remind their leaders who first deployed the word "no". Our reluctance to reform the UN security council grates in gatherings of the Arab League, the African Union and Latin America's Mercosur common market.

Kissinger evokes an era when great powers were masters. He worries about American's capacity to protect Taiwan. He is right, but Beijing will not be defeated with bluster from a few major powers. We urgently need to prove ourselves good partners to those we will need to stand with us when the time comes.

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Comment

# Revealed: expert the Cabinet Office cancelled

## Dan Kaszeta is just one to fall foul of checks on speakers that potentially breach human rights

**Edward Lucas**



Last month I wrote here about a distinguished British expert who was brusquely disinvited from speaking at an official conference because he failed a "vetting check". This was nothing to do with national security, nor with his expertise. The problem was his Twitter account. A check, he was told, had "identified material that criticises government officials and policy". Organisers pointed to "Cabinet Office rules" introduced last year.

At that stage this expert did not want to be named, so I gave him a pseudonym, "Richard Hannay". It was possible, just, that this was a misunderstanding or an isolated instance. I took up the cudgels on his behalf both as a journalist and as a politician: I am the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate in central London where he lives. I quizzed the Cabinet Office and encouraged MPs and peers to put down parliamentary questions. That brought some progress. Jacob Rees-Mogg, who as Cabinet Office minister last summer boasted about the "very sensible" new rules on external speakers at civil service events, admitted they were not being enforced as intended. His successor, Jeremy Quin, promised to MPs to put a copy of the previously unpublished guidelines in the parliamentary library. But there was no apology, and alarming levels of obfuscation. We have also learnt that the secret blocklists (a better word than blacklist) are based on flimsy evidence and are absurdly sweeping. Professor Colin Talbot of Manchester University has found at least seven victims.

With "Richard Hannay's" consent, I can now reveal that he is a chemical-warfare expert called Dan Kaszeta. The conference from which he was disinvited was organised by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory — better known as Porton Down, after its top-secret facility near Salisbury.

The government's responses focus

> It should be irrelevant if a visitor has tweeted on immigration policy

narrowly and misleadingly on earlier guidance governing speakers at "cross-government diversity networks". These are, according to a civil service tweet, places where "you can meet colleagues, network, learn, develop your career and have fun".

Rules introduced in November 2021 lay down extra scrutiny for outside speakers "that could undermine the civil service's position on impartiality and create reputational damage". In other words, think twice before using official time, money and venues to host fire-breathing zealots who might radicalise the staff or prompt a scalding in the tabloids.

The first victim of this that we know of was Priyamvada Gopal, a Cambridge University professor who was disinvited from a Black History Month event in October 2021. She found out that her anti-colonial views were the reason only when Guido Fawkes, an online gadfly, crowed about it. But her case predates by a month the purported date of the new rules. The panic started earlier.

The real reason behind it seems to be not the danger of exposing tender-minded civil servants to forthright views but fear of a furore among right-wing media with clout in Conservative Party circles. Another victim, Kate Devlin, is an expert in artificial intelligence at Kings College London. Her planned speech on women in technology to a meeting of humanists working at the Ministry of Justice in October 2022 was cancelled with an email that said: "Someone could look for you on social media after the event…and then complain." A freedom of information request revealed an email between civil servants that showed their real concern was "a press risk". It gave a link to a previous Guido Fawkes piece attacking speakers with "woke credentials". Devlin at least was given the evidence against her: five tweets, three mocking the monarchy and two deriding Liz Truss. Hardly high treason.

All this is bad enough. But the net is cast more widely than speakers at diversity events. It should be of absolutely no relevance to a Porton Down chemical-weapons conference that Kaszeta — a world expert — tweets caustically about immigration policy, whatever Guido Fawkes and his ilk may think. The Cabinet Office says it is aware that other bits of government have adapted the diversity events guidance for their own purposes. But in an answer to a parliamentary question from the Lib Dem peer William Wallace, it said it had no idea of how widely the rules were applied, because no data on speakers "identified as unsuitable" was collected centrally. The Cabinet Office gave me a similar answer: no records are kept of how these rules are implemented.

This is not good enough. For a start, how does the government know that the social media accounts concerned are genuine? Impersonation is rife on Twitter. How do they know the people they are checking do not use pseudonymous accounts? Criticism of the government comes in many forms — not least from disaffected Tory MPs such as Rees-Mogg. Are they to be banned too? What happens if governments change within the five-year time frame of the checks?

MPs and peers will keep up the pressure. The public administration select committee should launch an inquiry. Media can quiz ministers further. The victims can submit requests under freedom of information and data protection legislation — as have I.

Another option is judicial review. Lawyers tell me these career-blighting checks potentially breach both human rights law (the right to free expression) and the equality act (discrimination on grounds of political belief). With friendly lawyers working on the cheap, going to court would cost around £20,000. Democracy doesn't come free.

THUNDERER

## Bring back ticket checks to curb the rail fare dodgers

**Tony Lodge**

Train fare evasion is costing the network a staggering £240 million a year. It is a punishable offence to travel on a train without a ticket but more and more people are taking their chances, especially as they see little enforcement, with tickets going unchecked and station barriers regularly left open.

How many readers are fed up with having bought a ticket yet finding no physical check on the train or at the destination? This is not fair or responsible and it simply encourages more evasion while eroding passenger confidence. It doesn't happen when you travel by bus, coach, plane or ferry.

I regularly experience this travelling between London and Yorkshire on the LNER service. I have asked station staff at Wakefield why the barriers are open, to be told they are too understaffed to operate them. This is particularly concerning given that LNER is state-run and receives millions in taxpayer support.

Lost revenue through fare evasion ultimately means higher fares and

> Failing train operators and stations must be named and shamed

less investment, as losses and operating costs have to be covered.

It isn't feasible to have expensive barriers at all stations, especially rural ones. That said, the correct use of data and the joining of ticketing systems, on-board technology, oversight of station management and the better use of barriers will go a long way to tackling the problem. Failing train operators and stations must be named and shamed by passenger groups, with their chief executives and managers held to account.

An underlying problem is the lack of consistency across the rail network, meaning those intent on not paying can travel with relative ease. The scams are well established. For example, it is well known that if you travel long-distance on a bank holiday weekend, on a football match day or a Sunday, the chances of ticket checks and closed barriers are small.

The government's long-awaited plans for rail retail reform must address this growing fraud. Increases in penalty fares are no deterrent if those evading fares know they won't be caught. Where is the prevention?

A good start would be for the Department for Transport to update passenger service contracts to mandate that ticket checks occur on all journeys and that the barriers work. Ministers need to deliver their new ticketing plans and stop train operators and stations letting fare dodgers off the hook.

**Tony Lodge is a research fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies**

**Juliet Samuel** Notebook

# Only silence for a decade will do from Liz and Matt

Can disgraced politicians please just shut up and go and think about what they've done? The spectacle of Matt Hancock and Liz Truss popping up to give policy advice is an affront to our intelligence and their dignity.

Hancock was back last week arguing that the Tories ought to stop fighting culture wars (always code for: "Let the other side do what they want") and must stay "socially liberal". This from a man who cheated on his wife and children during a national lockdown and then went on TV to talk about how wonderful it was to be in love.

For her part, Truss, who squandered national credibility in record time while in office, popped up in Taiwan to make yet another speech about toughening up policy on China. The best thing Truss could do for the worthy cause of China scepticism in the UK is to be quiet and let others talk about it. We do not need advice from these self-serving, busted-flush narcissists. More like a decade of dignified silence.

### All about the father

On the topic of Hancock, speakers at last week's National Conservatism conference were widely mocked for talking about marriage and family, on the grounds that this might exclude or shame single mothers. Even if one assumes the existence of non-nuclear families precludes talking about the benefits of conventional ones, which it shouldn't, this misses the point. The problem isn't single mothers; it's men who abandon or abuse them. When some on the right talk of "bringing back shame" to contain human excess, they should be careful to make sure it is deadbeat males who are the target, not the women.

### New zealots

Another widely voiced objection to some Tories' mention of the word "faith" last week is that Britain is a resolutely liberal country that has no need for the quackery and ritualism on offer from Christians or any other weird God-botherer. If that is so, perhaps someone can explain the following social phenomena. A professional I know used to attend "Sunday sing" in Islington, north London — a gathering for "secular" types who definitely would never, ever go to church (are you joking?) and instead found themselves gathering on a Sunday morning to belt out Disney tunes.



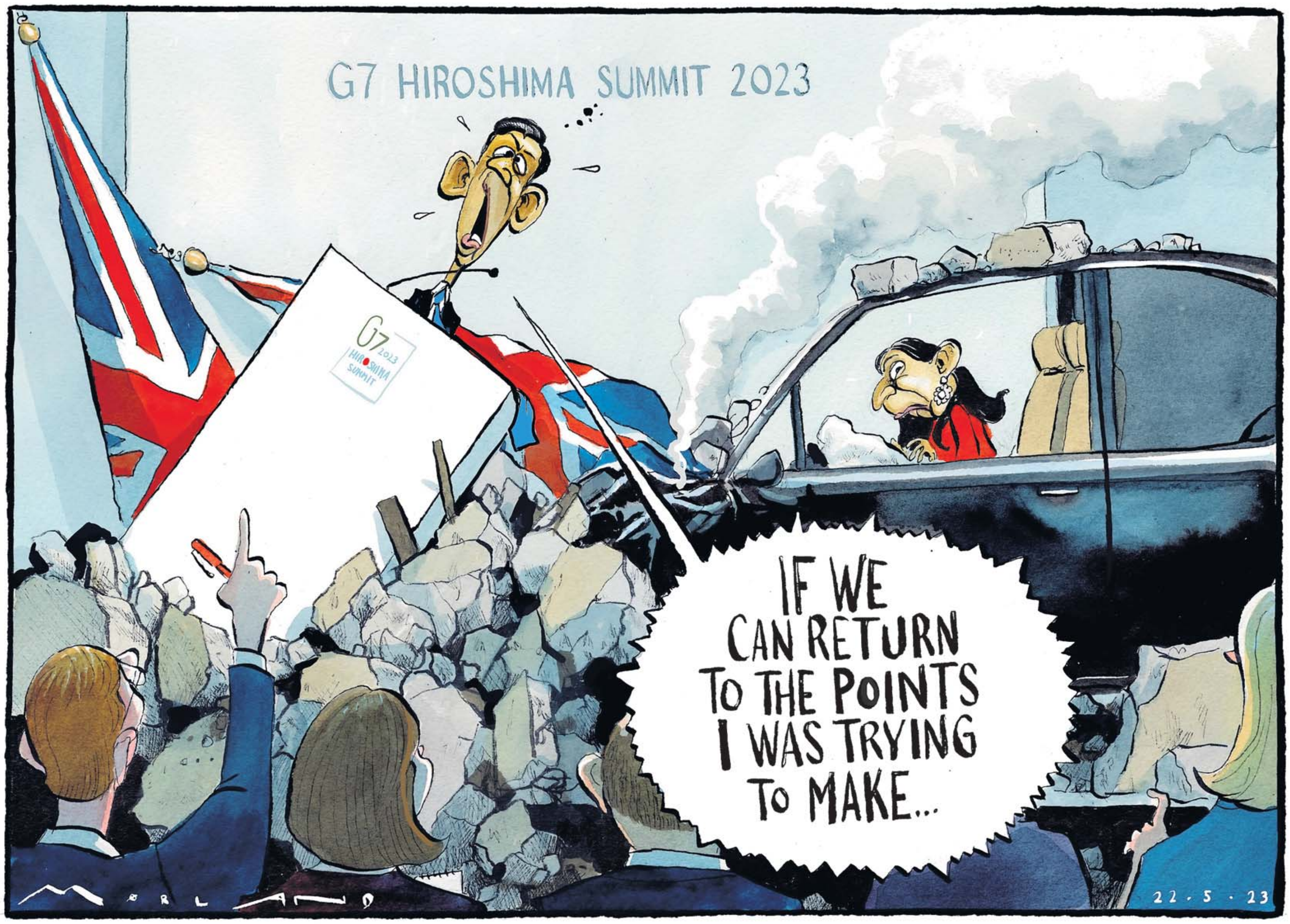
Another acquaintance attended a party held in place of a traditional christening at which the friends and family dressed as safari animals and performed a kind of jokey dance as Disney's *Circle of Life* was played until, at the climactic moment, the baby was held aloft for all to see.

Meanwhile, before going out to exhibit themselves on our major thoroughfares, I am told a group of Extinction Rebellion protesters often use the basement of a friendly central London church to get dressed up in their cultic attire. Other progressive activists now observe a solemn calendar busier than a schedule of saints' days (mental health week, trans visibility week and so on) to show strict observance for the cause. It seems to me that rather than reinventing the wheel, it would be a lot more satisfying for everyone concerned just to join a church (or temple or whatever) and draw on thousands of years of rich ritualistic history in pursuing their beliefs. This apparently makes me illiberal and sinister — but at least I'm not the one dressing up as some kind of apocalyptic Disney priestess for kicks.

### Darth banker

A central-bank watcher writes to highlight that senior figures in his field are now naming their speeches after *Star Wars* slogans. A recent address by John Williams of the New York Fed was entitled "This is the Way", after the catchphrase of the Mandalorians, a kind of jetpack-wearing, sci-fi knights paladin featured in a recent *Star Wars* spin-off series. Williams then proceeded to quote Anakin Skywalker on "bringing back balance to the Force", before arguing "the [bank] has been taking strong actions to do just that".

Somehow, this public analogy between the technical job of inflation management and the mysterious power wielded by an order of spacefaring magicians did not inspire huge confidence.




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# Podcasts diminish Radio 4's unique voice

## Station may be losing listeners but BBC is wrong to think on-request listening can replicate its careful programming

**Libby Purves**



@LIB_THINKS

It isn't just the nation's industrial health that makes some talk of decline: one of its great cultural arteries is looking shaky. BBC Radio 4 lost 800,000 listeners in the past year, the reduction sharpest in the *Today* programme. One in six of us still listen, but its share has shrunk inexorably.

That the breakfast programme should be particularly hit is hardly surprising: it's an early morning show largely about politics, and ours are currently polarised, frivolous, spiteful and frustrating. *Today* mirrors that. Nor is it amazing when listeners find some presenters infuriating. They always did.

Forty years ago, I was an annoying *Today* presenter myself. Listeners who were glad a woman had the job for the first time were balanced by others writing letters calling me an "a trollop not fit to black the boots of Brian Redhead", and asking how "this schoolgirl dared contradict a minister of the crown". Contumely goes with the job, so if Mishal Husain or Amol Rajan annoy you, accept that you and they are just part of history, into which you'll all pass. *Today* will evolve, the audience grow and shrink depending on its leadership and nerve. What grieves me much more is a decline in general esteem for the network as a whole. I've been a listener for life and spent 42 years working full or part-time deep in the belly of the R4 beast. To its spiteful detractors I say: "Halt! Enough with the sneering schadenfreude! Try instead to remember what it is; how unusual and remarkable. Look at the wider picture, forgive whichever cooing or grating voice made you switch off one day, and be Radio 4's ally against managerial carelessness and financial starvation.

For it is unique in the world: an all-

> To its spiteful detractors I say enough with the sneering schadenfreude!

speech network but not — unlike Radio 5, the commercial TalkRadio or indeed the excellent Times Radio — shaped by doing bulletins hourly or half-hourly between live chat. Once *Today* is over at 9am, the network can run sensitively built interviews, documentaries and plays without interrupting them with breaking news and a torrent of comment. It simply asks for proper, grown-up attention to some subject, anything from newts to Isaac Newton, statistical anomalies to psychoactive drugs. It can give comedy or tension time to build. It can allow important silences.

This is an accident of history. Because it grew up uncommercial, the BBC could pioneer imaginative radio artistry, whether in documentaries or dramatic fiction. Because it was unrivalled for decades, yet aware that the whole nation owned it, it had to develop ways of clearly conveying complicated issues without patronising the unacademic. It's a technique I once heard a physicist beautifully describe: "You can explain anything to anyone, if you can just find a courteous translation."

At its best, Radio 4 does this in a Reithian spirit of politely opening doors without shoving you through. If, for instance, you want to reflect on how the Iraq war began, your most dispassionate and digestible guide is Gordon Corera: in ten short episodes of *Shock and War*, he drew from 20 years' work on two continents. All this delivered to your ear as you drive home, exercise or do the ironing.

Because the BBC had good resources and attracted people intrigued by the imaginative freedom of radio, it gave lift-off to playwrights from Joe Orton to Tom Stoppard. It pioneered expressions, ideas and, not least, jokes. TV comedies were launched from radio originals all the way from Tony Hancock to the creations of John Morton and Armando Iannucci, and it found the first sharp British-Asian comedy voice in *Goodness Gracious Me*. Only radio can do the riotous *Mark Steel's In Town*, as to local laughter he celebrates and mocks the quirks and histories of places national TV rarely goes near. With a century

> It pioneered imaginative artistry, whether in documentary or drama

of archives, Radio 4 can repeat treasures, or you can find them on the BBC Sounds app — once you get past its podcast offers of wittering fandom, morbid true crime and embarrassing "mindfulness" aids.

On which note I grudgingly nod to the scoffers. Radio 4 right now can feel uneven, uncertain. Two sets of keen critics weigh in. One side harrumphs that it's "wokefied", constantly whining and rebuking and chasing a phantom youth audience by genuflecting to identity politics and eco-angst. In another corner, some of those very youths decide (on little listening) that it's full of boring, gammony old men and posh, white home-counties schoolmarms. Both unfair, but listen for a few days and you'll find nuggets of proof on both sides.

Yet the strongest and most rational criticism is of its preference for online, on-request listening rather than offering a reliable day-long voice of calm interest and surprise. The risk, in this podcast explosion, is degrading the quality of once-carefully built programmes and losing (through reckless redundancy offers) the most skilled, intelligent people who make them. The remaining producers I know within Radio 4 are working longer hours than ever, research and administrative support cut to the bone, top management treating them as old hat.

Speech radio budgets suffered for years anyway, cut as BBC TV runs scared of competition from streaming giants. But tell me, where does enduring national value lie? In another glitzy series of *Strictly* and more violent cop shows? Or in preserving a unique and relatively cheap form of public education?

So, from the sidelines I plead: maybe you don't listen, maybe you hate the licence fee, maybe your main BBC focus is on stopping it vandalising its classical music infrastructure. But do speak for Radio 4 as well. Because that's a classic too.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

## Rebuild parliament

Sir, When will our parliamentarians grasp the nettle? It has been apparent for more than half a century that a major restoration of the Palace of Westminster is unavoidable and that substantial sums of public money will be required (news, May 20). If the palace were a listed building in private ownership, enforcement notices would surely already have been issued. The reputational damage to our government if the building has to be declared unsafe would be considerable, enabling our foes gleefully to exploit the image of a crumbling building as a metaphor for a crumbling and out-of-date political culture. Decisions must be made in short order and work commenced.
**Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite**
Ely, Cambs

Sir, The horrors of working in parliament buildings made me wonder if it might not be an idea to move parliamentary business into Buckingham Palace for the duration of the repairs. It's not as if the King is particularly enamoured of the palace, so I'm sure he'd be happy to see it used in this manner. Plus it would still be in London which, I'm sure, is a huge bonus to MPs.
**Maggie Pinsent**
Alnwick, Northumberland

Sir, For some time now I have been aware that parliament was in decay but had no idea that the building was also falling apart.
**Trevor Andrews**
Weymouth, Dorset

## Green belt solution

Sir, Emma Duncan's timely article about the green belt (comment, May 19; letters, May 20) identifies the opportunity for more development land. The government is opposed to releasing green belt land but there might be a solution: it could be categorised. Grades 1 and 2 would be untouchable apart from allowing major infrastructure development. Grade 3 could be for high-density use only with 50 per cent of the land sale proceeds going back to upgrading grades 1 and 2, giving much-needed investment to the retained land and more housing supply on a controlled basis.
**Sir Stuart Lipton**
London, W1

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## Corrections and clarifications

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# The implications of using AI in education

Sir, It is heartening to see head teachers taking the risks of artificial intelligence seriously ("AI is 'clear and present danger to education'" news, letter and leading article, May 20). However, I would question the focus placed on "heads of science or digital", rather than arts and humanities. What makes these new large language models such as ChatGPT so exceptional is their ability to produce fluent and plausible prose: they are far better suited to writing essays on Coleridge than calculating covalent bonds. It is the literature student who reaches for AI first, not the chemist.

With A-level take-up of subjects such as English and history already shrinking, any strategy to manage the use of AI in education must have these subjects at its heart. If not, we risk a generation of potential scholars being washed away by a tide of AI-created content.
**Max Bruges**
Head of English, El Alsson British International School, Cairo

Sir, The use of AI in education seems eminently sensible, although threatening to the teaching profession. Most primary and secondary education is designed to meet specific goals and doesn't require original thinking so it would be easier to replace teaching staff with algorithms. The automated delivery of the content may be open to question but the intellectual challenge provided by a human is realistically only required in the most testing areas of tertiary education.
**Alan Pateman-Jones**
Dorchester, Dorset

Sir, AI is not a danger to "education" as your dramatic headline says. It is a danger to the schooling system in Britain. Not the same thing at all.
**Terry Deary**
Burnhope, Co Durham

Sir, Perhaps the cross-sector body being set up to look at the upsides and downsides of AI might start by looking at the ways in which we examine young people at every stage of their education. AI is merely widening the faultline that has been the bane of students' schooling for centuries. If we don't start there, we are on a wild goose chase.
**Paddy McEvoy**
March, Cambs

Sir, Your educational correspondents are undoubtedly right to call for appropriate regulation of AI. Their arguments apply equally to higher education where, in common with most of society, few realise the full significance of what is without question a technological revolution.

Large language models such as those that power Chat GPT already afford the opportunity of immensely beneficial change to the law and society, but today's legal graduates are arguably ill-equipped for that. This must change, for in the future employers will demand graduates who are skilled in the effective and ethical use of such AI tools, which by then will no doubt have radically altered the nature and availability of employment itself. Clearly, this revolution will be challenging for us all.
**Richard A Edwards**
Head of Exeter Law School 2016-19, University of Exeter

Sir, There is a simple way to resolve the issue of students using AI when writing their essays: let AI do the marking and downgrade any use of plagiarism or non-original thought.
**Philip Braunstein**
Altrincham, Greater Manchester

## 'Picking' legal cases

Sir, As a barrister in the practice of criminal law, prosecuting and defending for the past 28 years, I can say with certainty that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not "cherry-pick" the easiest cases (news, May 19).

Facing as I am a serious child sex case retrial using the infuriating and badly designed section 28 procedure, I can assure the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police that he unhelpfully maligns complex and challenging assault, sex and other cases prosecuted by CPS and counsel every day in England and Wales.

Extrapolating from a high case conviction rate that "we" are not prosecuting the more difficult ones is foolish and unjustified.

As for lawyers making decisions about cases before court hearings, the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985 was introduced precisely to allow for experienced criminal lawyers to vet cases according to the code for crown prosecutors and other legal tests so that the right cases go to court.

Finally, blaming frontline officers for the findings of the Casey report is crass in the extreme, when the significant failing of middle and senior managers is clearly at the heart of the problem. On the basis of this thinking perhaps it is time for a wholesale review and restructure of the Met from the top down.
**John Riley**
23ES Chambers, London WC1R

## Learn how to debate

Sir, It is a shocking indictment of our times that it requires a double-page spread to remind undergraduates that "Students have to get used to views they find distasteful" (news, May 20).

The eco-mob's savaging of any who dare to oppose them suggests that many of our young people do not consider reason and rational debate appropriate tools for dealing with issues that seem important to them, or believe in democracy.

For university students it is clearly too late to imbibe the efficacy of reason and debate. These time-honoured tools should be an integral part of our educational system at a much earlier stage. Every school should have a debating club and every pupil should be given the tools and be encouraged to take part. There should be national inter-school debating contests, with a (possibly televised) final.
**Doug Clark**
Currie, Midlothian

## Creating extra peers

Sir, Whatever opinion one may hold on the House of Lords, at a headcount of 778 plus a possible further 50 ("Sunak faces three by-elections over MPs ennobled by Johnson", May 17; letters, May 18), surely it is time, once again, to consider its size. Perhaps we could start with a cap on resignation honours at 50 per cent of any net decrease in membership during the respective term of office. Mathematics might then exercise the restraint that some of our elected leaders appear to find so challenging.
**Karl Fenlon**
Ely, Cambs

Sir, Can there possibly be any seats left in the Lords by now? Surely new entrants must either stand or bring a folding chair.
**John F Leonard**
Newport on Tay, Fife

## MR BALDWIN IS NEW PRIME MINISTER

**FROM THE TIMES** MAY 22, 1923

The King received Mr Stanley Baldwin in audience at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon and invited him to form a Government in succession to Mr Bonar Law. Mr Baldwin accepted the invitation. It was obvious yesterday morning that the name of the new Prime Minister would be known during the day. The King, having cancelled the Cavalry Parade at Aldershot, which had been arranged for the morning, returned to London by road, and it was known that Lord Curzon was on his way back from his Somerset residence and Mr Baldwin from Chequers. Despite wild statements which had been made to the contrary, the choice rested between those two statesmen, and the news that they were both returning to London added to the interest of the situation. The King on his return to Buckingham Palace was engaged with Lord Stamfordham, who had interviewed a number of the political leaders on the situation. It is understood that most of them emphasised the importance of choosing a leader from the House of Commons in view of the fact that the official Labour Opposition has no representatives in the Upper House. Lord Stamfordham called upon Lord Curzon, presumably to inform him of the decision arrived at by the King, and at 3 o'clock it became known that Mr Baldwin had been summoned to the Palace. On arriving in Downing Street, Mr Baldwin had seen members of Mr Bonar Law's Cabinet, who had intimated their willingness to serve under him. When, therefore, the King extended the invitation to him, Mr Baldwin was in the position of knowing that he would be able to form a government and he at once accepted the invitation, though it is known that he would have been willing to serve under Lord Curzon should the King's choice have fallen upon the Foreign Secretary. When he returned to Downing Street he was welcomed by a large crowd, and in reply to their congratulation he remarked: "I need your prayers rather than your congratulations."

There is real sympathy with Lord Curzon who, having served the country faithfully and well for a long term of years, finds the highest prize of all out of his reach. But the action of His Majesty in sending for a House of Commons man was generally applauded in political circles last night.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

## Artificial grass

Sir, It is a pity that Monty Don is so critical of artificial grass (interview, May 20). I had a very large area of lawn that, given my age and infirmity, I knew I couldn't possibly maintain by pushing a lawnmower. I had part of it replaced with artificial grass of a quality recommended by Which?. It did prick my conscience, but I compensated with equally large areas of insect-friendly plants. My borders are a hive of activity. So please, Monty, understand that we are not all fit and healthy enough to go completely "green".
**Rae Baines**
Salisbury

Sir, As a retired landscape architect I was asked to advise on a back garden in London. It had two evergreen trees that gave privacy but heavily shaded the ground beneath. Almost nothing was able to grow and the compacted mud was hardly a good play surface for two toddlers. The only feasible solution was artificial grass and it has provided an excellent surface in all weathers.

Surely the message is to use the product only after careful thought, so no blanket bans please, as it is entirely appropriate for some areas.
**Dr Rosamunde Codling**
Wymondham, Norfolk

## Secret letter

Sir, The regular postal service may sometimes be slow ("Snail mail means hospital slot missed", news, May 17; letter, May 20), but it has the great advantage that it is discreet. Information transmitted by computer, email, phone or text is available to the world.
**Richard Tripp**
King's Lynn, Norfolk

## Reaching their limit

Sir, Two pillars of our society have been caught speeding. If both the Archbishop of Canterbury and the home secretary have fallen foul of the enforcement cameras (news, May 13 & May 20), perhaps it is time to review whether the new speed limits are just too low, even for responsible drivers.
**Francis Bown**
London E3

## Treading carefully

Sir, Drew Close's reflections on Mike Leadbetter's persuading Reform Club door people that his trainers were for medical reasons (letter, May 19) resonated strongly with me. As head teacher of a grammar school I enforced a strict uniform policy that forbade trainers. However, I had to relent on occasions when students produced medical notes written by my brother, a podiatrist.
**Enda Cullen**
Armagh

## Reading the room

Sir, I was delighted to read "We Are Where We Are" (leading article, May 19; letter, May 20). It filled me with hope as it indicated that you have read the room, recognised the direction of travel, embraced the pushback against cliché and jargon and started the conversation.

I expect to see more evidence of this narrative — going forwards, of course.
**Sally-Anne Edis**
Aberbechan, Powys

# Leading articles

## Daily Universal Register

**UK:** Home Office questions in parliament. **World:** World Health Assembly, director-general's address, Switzerland; French Open tennis begins, Roland Garros, Paris.

## Nature notes



Scrambling through the lush, thick verdure of a verge in May were the small leaves and pink pea-like flowers of common vetch. Its little oval leaves appeared opposite one another along the long stems, each of which ended in a curly tendril by which the plant pulled itself up and along. A legume like lentils and peas, vetch can create its own nitrogen, which makes it good for soil fertility: also known as tares or poor man's peas, it's thought our neolithic ancestors may have cultivated and eaten its close cousin, bitter-vetch. Today, common vetch is sometimes sown as a soil improver, or for winter food for animals. MELISSA HARRISON

## Birthdays today



**Dame Arlene Phillips**, *pictured*, choreographer and judge, *Strictly Come Dancing* (2004-08), 80; **Lynn Barber**, journalist, author, *A Curious Career* (2014), 79; **Sir Peter Bazalgette**, co-chairman, Creative Industries Council, chairman, ITV (2016-22), Arts Council England (2013-17), 70; **Richard Benjamin**, actor, *Catch-22* (1970), *Westworld* (1973), and director, 85; **Lord (Menzies) Campbell of Pittenweem**, chancellor, University of St Andrews, leader, Liberal Democrats (2006-07), 82; **Lt Gen Ian Cave**, commander Home Command and standing joint commander (UK), chief of staff, Field Army (2018-20), 57; **Rev Don Cupitt**, theologian, writer and broadcaster, 89; **Jerry Dammers**, musician, a founder of the Specials, *Too Much Too Young* (1979), 68; **Novak Djokovic**, tennis player, men's singles world No 1, seven-time Wimbledon men's singles winner (2011, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022), 36; **Anthony Holden**, writer, *Olivier* (2007), and co-editor, *Poems That Make Grown Men Cry* (2014), 76; **Baroness (Maggie) Jones of Whitchurch**, trade unionist, chairwoman, Labour Party (2000-01), 68; **Ieuan Wyn Jones**, director of Menai Science Park (M-SParc) (2013-18), deputy first minister of Wales (2007-11), leader, Plaid Cymru (2000-12), 74; **Graham Linehan**,TV writer and director, *The IT Crowd* (2006-13), 55; **Morrissey**, singer-songwriter, *Everyday Is Like Sunday* (1988), frontman of the Smiths (1982-87), 64; **Lubna Shuja**, president, the Law Society of England and Wales, 56; **Henry Somerset**, **Duke of Beaufort**, 71; **Jon Sopel**, journalist, *UnPresidented: Politics, Pandemics and the Race that Trumped All Others* (2021), former correspondent for BBC News, 64; **Irwin Stelzer**, economist, columnist for The Sunday Times, 91; **Bernie Taupin**, songwriter, lyricist for Elton John (including *Candle in the Wind*, 1973), 73.

## On this day

In **1859** Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born. The Edinburgh-born novelist wrote 60 stories about Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Dr Watson. In **1970** the Cricket Council agreed to a "formal request from Her Majesty's government to withdraw the invitation to the South African touring team". Instead, five matches were played against a Rest of the World team captained by Garfield Sobers.

## The last word

"My life looked good on paper — where, in fact, almost all of it was being lived." Martin Amis, author, *Experience: A Memoir* (2000)

TIMES PAST THE TIMES FUTURE

# Containing China

### Western democracies should resist Beijing's economic and military challenge. Defending the principles of a rules-based international order is not provocative

Fractious relations between Russia and the western democracies may seem reminiscent of the Cold War. In reality, the international order a generation since the fall of the Soviet Union is even more dangerous. China's transformation into an economic superpower and potential rival to American power has emboldened autocratic regimes worldwide — notably Vladimir Putin's.

Rishi Sunak was right to refer, at the G7 summit in Japan, to China as the greatest challenge of the age with regard to global security and prosperity. The West needs to face squarely the threats from an autocracy that is increasingly repressive within its borders and assertive beyond them. The challenge must not be shirked, and if the western response is sensibly crafted there is no reason it should provoke Beijing into hostilities.

It is unfortunate that the Ukraine crisis has coincided with unusually warm relations between Russia and China. President Xi and President Putin have met dozens of times since the former took office in 2012. Instead of condemning the Kremlin's brutal aggression against Ukraine, Beijing has disingenuously blamed Nato for ignoring Russia's "reasonable concerns" over sovereignty.

The G7 leaders referred specifically to China's aggressive diplomacy in the Indo-Pacific and towards Taiwan, but also to the wider issue of its "economic coercion". Whereas the Soviet Union was an economic basket case, China in this century, driven by market reforms, has amassed a huge surplus of savings that it is using to nudge (or bludgeon) emerging economies into its orbit. It is also trying to integrate its technological vehicles, notably the telecoms company Huawei, into the infrastructure of advanced industrial economies.

These advances in economic diplomacy are tacit rather than direct threats, but no less insidious. The task for the western democracies is to help direct China's economic strength into measures to enrich its huge population and contribute to global growth. It is, for example, quite reasonable to expect the western economies to contribute to the cost of mitigating climate change and abandon the retreat into trade protectionism and domestic subsidies that has characterised the Trump and Biden administrations. The US and its allies should engage more in multilateral decision-making in economic policy if they are to undermine China's appeal to poorer nations.

Although open markets and free trade are desirable, they do not defuse the threat from hostile powers. The western democracies should never sacrifice principle to commercial advantage. If Beijing wishes to encourage aggressive autocracies it must be held to account. It cannot any longer prevaricate on Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The US and its allies, including Britain, should insist that China join in condemning Russia's action within the UN Security Council, and not abstain. As Beijing has never recognised Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, this may be a case where suasion works.

Ultimately, however, while a modus vivendi is attainable, a partnership between the West and China is not while Beijing persists on its present course. Maritime expansionism in the South China Sea and alliances with rogue states must carry costs in the form of economic exclusion and renewed security commitments to western allies, notably South Korea and Japan.

The divisions between free societies and autocracies are fundamental. When Beijing says the US and its allies do not adhere to the principles of a rules-based international order, it points to the imperfections of western democracies. When the US and its allies protest against the genocidal repression of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang, and insist on the territorial integrity of China's neighbours, they uphold the values of civilisation. It is an obligation they must not shirk.

# Freedom 101

### Oxford students engaging in cancel culture fail the liberty test

The Oxford scholar of today is a delicate flower indeed. So delicate that he or she must be protected from the merest whiff of a contrary opinion for fear of the trauma it might induce. This can be the only explanation for the desire by a group within the university's student body to "cancel" Dr Kathleen Stock and bar her from speaking in a debate at the Oxford Union this month.

The philosopher's crime is to argue that the biological difference between men and women is immutable. No amount of wishful thinking can transform a man with XY sex chromosomes into a woman with XX ones. The term "gender" may be used to define sexual identity in a more fluid way, but it cannot trump scientific reality. Dr Stock argues that this essential truth must be respected when considering issues such as access to female spaces like changing rooms. Nevertheless, she believes transgender people are entitled to respect, and suggests a form of legal recognition safeguarding their interests.

It is a measure of the toxicity of the trans issue that this view, widely shared, should have resulted in Dr Stock being hounded from her post at Sussex University in 2021. The persecution she suffered at Sussex, involving the hostility of colleagues and intimidation by students, is being continued by trans activists at Oxford. The university's student union has tried to sanction the debating society for inviting Dr Stock by banning it from a fundraising fair, and its LGBTQ society plans a mass demonstration outside the debating chamber, promising "heated interactions".

Dr Stock is accused on its Twitter feed of hating trans people and of trying to destroy "trans joy". Such hyperbole is the standard tool of the extreme trans lobby. And this modern version of McCarthyism has worked, silencing those who fear being cast as insufficiently woke. But these bigots and bullies masquerading as liberals need to be called out.

Clearly, the students planning to silence Dr Stock have no respect for free speech. And they have no idea what universities are for. To enlighten them: these should be places of free inquiry where ideas are tested on their intellectual merits, not their palatability.

Thankfully, a group of 44 academics at Oxford have been prepared to condemn these attempts to censor debate. But this is a tiny proportion of the university's staff. Where are the rest?

Under new legislation, universities have a legal obligation to protect freedom of speech. This law should never have been necessary, but the craven surrender of university authorities to the bullying of trans activists and others forced its creation.

The infantilisation of students by staff who shy away from challenging their preconceptions, the endless pirouetting around sensitive subjects for fear of inflicting some imagined "trauma", has to cease. University is where young people go to grow up. And that for some means growing a thicker skin.

Perhaps all new undergraduates should be presented with a copy of John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*. He wrote: "It is only by the collision of adverse opinions that the remainder of the truth has any chance of being supplied."

Ideas expressed and challenged without fear, this is the essence of a liberal education. University staff and students need to relearn this, and take a lesson in freedom 101.

# Amis's Achievement

### A giant of postwar literature leaves a precious legacy

In his collection of criticism, *The War Against Cliché* (1999), Martin Amis refers to modern novelists' "potential for huge boredom". No such charge could be levelled against Amis himself, a giant of postwar literature and author of 15 novels who died on Saturday, aged 73. It is a cruel irony that a figure celebrated for, metaphorically speaking, his voice should have succumbed to cancer of the oesophagus, as did that of his close friend Christopher Hitchens in 2011. The legacy both men leave is literally voluminous and precious.

Amis defied convention and even definition, but he was especially notable in chronicling the foibles and vanities of the age. He came to stardom, and not merely renown, with his quintessential 1980s novels *Money: A Suicide Note* and *London Fields*, which skilfully dissect what he saw as the pathologies of the nuclear threat and consumer culture, and their deleterious effects on human decency.

Few writers have depicted so well the social decay of modernity. Referring to Saul Bellow, the Nobel laureate whose output he especially admired, Amis distinguished between a writer who "finds meaning" and one who "gives meaning".

It was an acute perception that fiction provides an insight into the human soul that any amount of abstract philosophising can miss. Amis was concerned, not remorselessly but consistently, with what he termed the "cheapening of humanity". In an age of ephemeral celebrity and multiple sources of news, he perceived that "the narrative line in human life is gone". His concern, after 9/11, that western democracies were unwilling to defend their values against theocratic extremism compounded this cultural pessimism.

Yet his passing has elicited tributes to his perceptiveness and artistic brilliance that demonstrate the vitality of western culture. Amis's work will be justly celebrated for generations to come.

# World

# Russians ignore law to make

**Anthony Loyd**, in his second and final dispatch on the Wagner Group in the Central African Republic, looks at how the Kremlin gains a foothold





When a pair of Russian diplomats arrived at Danièle Darlan's office in Bangui two weeks after the start of the war in Ukraine, 3,200 miles away, the judge was shocked by the boldness of their proposition.

"The Russians said — and I was more than surprised by their openness — 'We have come to see you with one question: how could the necessary changes be made to the constitution to allow the president to remain in power?' " Darlan, who headed the constitutional court in the Central African Republic, said.

The Russians, one of whom was Yevgeny Migunov, second secretary at the Russian embassy in Bangui, argued that the CAR's Russian-backed leader, Faustin-Archange Touadera, limited to two terms in power by the country's constitution, was the only man capable of stabilising a nation riven by nearly twenty years of fighting. For the sake of the CAR's future, the Russians suggested, Touadera should remain president.

"The Russians repeated that President Touadera was the only one who can bring stability here," Darlan, 72, said. "In turn I explained that under our constitution it was not possible to extend presidential tenure to a third term. I also mentioned to them that there have been four coups in our recent history related to presidents who wanted to stay in power. Abuse of power here is a source of instability, not stability."

The meeting lasted a little over thirty minutes. The Russians left saying that they would take up the matter with Touadera. Seven months later Darlan was removed from her post by presidential decree over her opposition to the reform. She has had teams of UN troops guarding her house ever since, just as moves to change the constitution gather pace.

"I don't know exactly whose idea it was to change the constitution, the president's or the Russians'," said Darlan, who earned the title International Woman of Courage, awarded to her at the White House two months ago for her efforts to defend the constitution. "All I do know is that the Russians are fully behind the plan."

While Ukraine's bloody struggle to avoid subjugation occupies the West's attention, the advance of Russian influence and penetration of sovereignty in Africa has been far more successful; far less widely noticed.

Nowhere is Moscow's campaign more developed than in the CAR. Here, five years after the United Nations security council approved a 2018 request by Touadera for Russian arms and advisers to help to beat back a conglomerate of rebel forces threatening to overrun the capital, the Wagner Group has spearheaded a Russian operation that has penetrated every state institution as well as winning the support of tranches of a population exhausted by war.

More sophisticated in scope than Wagner's battlefield operations in Ukraine, the Russians in the CAR run a hybrid that combines influence and military operations with business, financing themselves through concessions in gold, diamonds and timber.

The personnel leading the CAR operation are more internationally experienced than many of their counterparts in Ukraine too. The man in charge, Touadera's security adviser Vitaly Perfilev, 40, is a veteran of the French Foreign Legion's parachute regiment, 2REP, and has participated in operations in Syria and Ukraine.

Another key figure is Dmitri Sytyi, 34, Russia's cultural attaché in Bangui, believed to be head of Wagner commercial, media and information affairs. Sytyi was injured in a mysterious explosion in Bangui in December involving a booby-trapped memory stick. Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Wagner chief, accused France of being behind the attack and Sytyi was evacuated to Russia for medical treatment. He returned to Bangui this month, although subsequent photographs have yet to reveal his injuries.

If successful the Russian-backed move to have the CAR's constitution altered to prolong Touadera's rule will mark a milestone in the capture of the country, consolidating the CAR as a springboard from which to expand the Wagner model elsewhere.

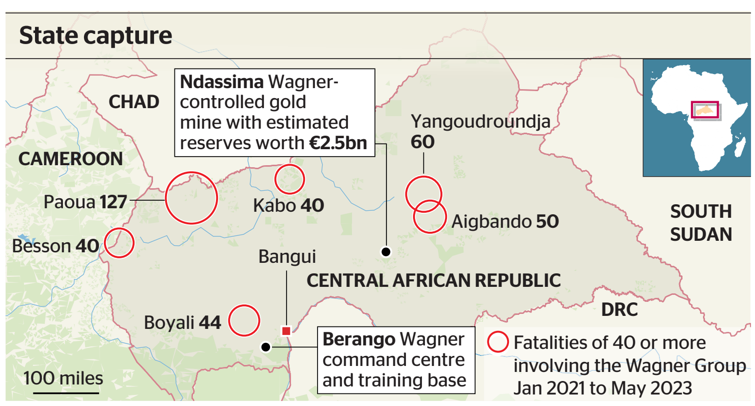
Support of the Russian presence varies across different sectors of a society divided by years of conflict that run along sectarian, geographical and tribal lines. Lingering antipathy towards the French, the colonial overlord until independence in 1960, has, however, gifted the Russians a following in significant sections of the populace.

Moreover, since the first Russian military advisers arrived in the CAR, Wagner's business model, incorporating guns for hire to the Bangui government in return for diamond, gold and timber concessions, has been brutally efficient in driving rebels back from population centres, allowing urban areas at least the semblance of stability.

Such was the frailty of any previous sense of security that the civilian population suffered repeated egregious abuse from armed groups of every denomination. Many are now grateful for even the most limited sense of stability. One woman, Francine Ndemade Evodie, a 54-year-old mother and the president of an association for victims of military conflict in the CAR, told me she had taken two of her sons, 17 and 23, to hide in a hospital in Bangui, fleeing the advance of rebels in 2013.



**The consitutional jurist Danièle Darlan now lives in fear for her life**




The family were discovered hiding by another rebel group who dragged the young men out and killed them in the dust in front of her. The same day I spoke to Evodie I met Mariam in Bangui, a 42-year-old mother, who was gang-raped three times over 11 years by different armed groups in the capital. In the first attack her mother was murdered in front of her.

Such accounts are not unusual in the CAR and binary discussions of the values of authoritarianism versus democracy mean little to people whose national poverty index is so low that 71 per cent of the population survives on less than $1.90 a day and for whom gunfire can herald rape or murder.

Thus despite a reputation for being fast with fists and quick on the trigger, the presence of the masked Wagner-personnel in Bangui denotes some type of stability. "Since the Russians arrived at least there is a sense of security in my district of Bangui," Mariam said. "That security comes with a fear too, because the Russians are masked and can't really communicate with us. But the fear was there before they came. Fear is with us always."

Although Wagner personnel have been implicated in a series of human rights abuses in the CAR, including beatings, killings and rape, the Russians counter their critics by claiming that their operations are effective, unlike repeated French missions.

In addition to failing to stabilise the CAR the French, who withdrew their last troops in December, were haunted by a human rights scandal after a leaked UN report alleged that their soldiers had sexually abused children during a peacekeeping mission in 2014.

French judges later decided to drop charges against the accused but the case reinforced the impression that

**Oil protesters turn Trevi Fountain black**
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**Darker culture engulfs Silicon Valley's tech bros**
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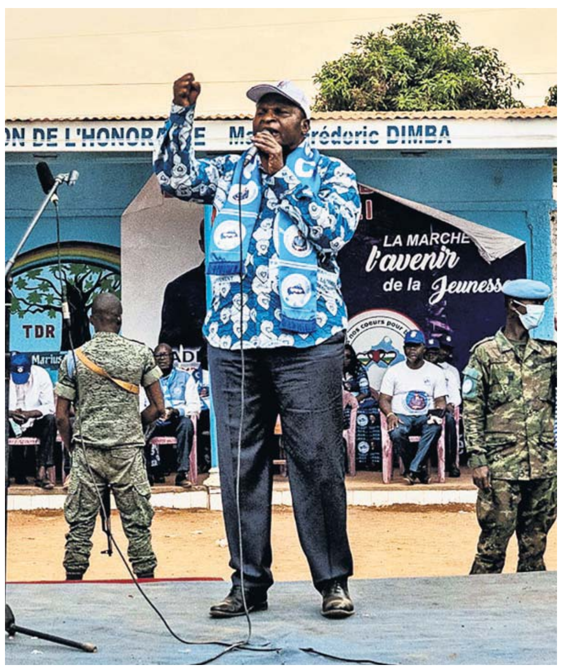
# their man run 'client state'

XINHUA/SHUTTERSTOCK/REX FEATURES; BARBARA DEBOUT






Vitaly Perfilev, centre, the Wagner chief in the Central African Republic, and Dmitri Sytyi, a key member of the Wagner team who was reported to have been injured by a bomb. President Touadera, below, is seeking a third term as Moscow's man in a nation beset by instability



the CAR's population was prone to abuse not just from its own armed groups but from its erstwhile colonial masters too.

"The French were historically accomplices to our dictators and they turned a blind eye to human rights abuses here," Crepin Mboli-Goumba, a leading opposition politician and head of the Patrie party, said. "If you are looking for accountability for previous mistakes then it lies 50-50 with the CAR's elite and the French."

Mboli-Goumba, 52, added that Russia's claim to herald a new era of stability for the CAR was also fraudulent. "The Russians came with the message that there would be no misery, no similar slavery to that of the West, but five years on, after human rights violations and exploitation, many people are realising the Russian propaganda was bogus," he said.

Indeed, the continuing Russian-backed scheme to change the constitution is now at the forefront of opposition not just to Touadera but also to Russian meddling. In late August Touadera formed a commission to draft a new constitution that would allow him a third term. The following month the constitutional court unanimously ruled the commission invalid.

Touadera's supporters reacted with outrage. Radio Lengo Sengo, the Wagner-financed station in Bangui that is a central media arm in the Russians' influence campaign, called for demonstrations denouncing Darlan and demanded her removal. The judge, whose term as head of the court was due to last until next year, was ousted.

Then in January this year, with Darlan gone, the court declared that the plan to initiate a referendum was legal after all, clearing the way for the possibility of constitutional reform and raising the prospect of a third term for the Kremlin's chosen president. The referendum, slated to be held alongside local elections in July, must first be passed by parliament, where a clear majority of Touadera's party, the United Hearts Movement, will put up little obstacle.

After many initial successes, however, Russia's operations in Africa are learning the limits of fast expansion. In Mozambique, Wagner suffered a reverse at the hands of Islamist rebels. In Mali, stronger institutions have resisted Russian demands for mining concessions.

The political climate is changing too, with top US diplomats including Antony Blinken, the secretary of state, and Janet Yellen, the Treasury secretary, visiting the continent to counter the messaging from Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister.

Should a referendum lift the two-term limit and allow Moscow's man a third term in the next presidential elections of 2025, Touadera and his Russian backers may learn that in pursuing the consolidation of power in the CAR they undermine themselves.

"If the referendum does go ahead then things will get tougher and tougher for those in power," Darlan said. "Just look at our history. Abuses of power so often provoke coups. Whatever they say to the contrary, any change to the constitution on the issue of a further presidential term would, according to constitutional article 153, be a crime of treason. Trouble will follow."

# Zelensky: We are still fighting for Bakhmut

**Ukraine**
**Maxim Tucker** Kyiv
**Aliide Naylor**

President Zelensky has rejected Russia's claim to have captured Bakhmut and the Ukrainian army said it was advancing on the city's flanks.

"Bakhmut is not occupied by Russia today," he told a press conference at the G7 summit in Hiroshima.

He said that the "absolute total destruction" of Bakhmut by the Russians compared with the devastation of Hiroshima by the United States when it dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city in 1945. "There is absolutely nothing alive [there]," he said.

Ukraine's army conceded that they had lost most of Bakhmut's territory but they were hanging on to a handful of its westernmost streets yesterday and have been making gradual gains over the high ground around it in recent days.

"Despite the fact that we now control an insignificant part of Bakhmut, the importance of its defence does not lose its relevance," Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrsky, commander of Ukraine's ground forces, said after visiting the area. "We continue to advance on the flanks in the suburbs of Bakhmut."

Both sides have built up the symbolic significance of the battle for the city in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region, stretching back more than nine months. Russia's Wagner group has sought victory as a propaganda boost for Yevgeny Prigozhin, its founder and chief, and the Kremlin.

Prigozhin said no Ukrainian troops remained there and that Zelensky was mistaken or had been misled. "There is not a single Ukrainian soldier in Bakhmut as we have stopped taking prisoners. There are a huge number of corpses of Ukrainian soldiers," he said.

The Kremlin issued a statement congratulating Wagner and Russian troops. "Vladimir Putin congratulated the assault units of Wagner as well as all servicemen of units of the Russian armed forces who provided them with the necessary support and flank cover, on the completion of the operation to liberate Artemovsk [the Soviet-era name for Bakhmut]."

Whatever the true situation on the ground, the fighting in Bakhmut has come at a high price for Moscow and Kyiv. The US estimates that Russia has lost the best part of 20,000 troops over the past five months trying to take the small town, which had a prewar population of 70,000, and was of little strategic significance even before being reduced to rubble.

Ukraine has also suffered thousands of casualties defending it despite advice from western partners to withdraw.

The battle's brutal impact on wearing down Russian soldiers and Wagner mercenaries has been compared to the clash between the Wehrmacht and the Red Army at Stalingrad.

The claims came as President Biden told Zelensky at the G& summit in Japan: "The entire G7 … have Ukraine's back and I promise we're not going anywhere". His remarks coincided with a new $375 million package of military support.

# Donetsk alcohol ban drives trade of bootleg products

**Marc Bennetts** Kramatorsk

The image of the ice-cold beer on the side of the hotel fridge looked appealing in the afternoon heat of Kramatorsk, a town in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region that is less than 20 miles from the front line.

It has been a long time, however, since anyone here was able to buy alcohol legally. Its sale has been banned in Ukrainian-held areas of the region since March last year as part of martial law restrictions.

Officials said that the law was necessary because of the presence of thousands of heavily armed soldiers. Allowing them to get drunk would be a recipe for disaster, Pavlo Kyrylenko, the governor of Donetsk, said.

Alcohol bans were introduced across Ukraine at the start of the conflict but were soon scrapped in the majority of areas. There has been no respite, however, for the citizens of the Donetsk region. At the borders police officers search vehicles to prevent smuggling.

"We confiscate a lot," said a police officer who showed a photograph of dozens of bottles that had been hidden in a car boot.

Kyrylenko said that some people got relatives to post alcohol in plastic bottles. He also complained of shops selling alcohol under the counter. "You can find beer if you know where to look," said a soldier, taking a swig from a can.

Guns and alcohol are clearly a bad mix but not all Ukraine's soldiers agree with the ban. "It's only of benefit to those involved with the flow of illegal alcohol," another soldier said. "It's still being sold. It's just twice as expensive."

Bootleg alcohol is popular. I was able to buy a 500ml bottle of "brandy" from an elderly woman at a street market in Kramatorsk. It came in a plastic water bottle and cost 200 hryvnia (£4.30).

The purplish liquid had a vaguely chemical odour. I took the tiniest of sips and my head spun.

Asked if she had samogon, or moonshine, the vendor called her supplier. "Vova, do you have any 'product'?" she asked. The answer was negative. "The demand is very high," she told me. "But a new batch will be ready next week."

GERARDO VIEYRA/NURPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK/REX FEATURES



**Hat trick** Three women celebrate the Day of the Charro and the Escaramuzas in Mexico City. The event pays tribute to charrería, a riding competition similar to rodeo

# Greek PM falls short of outright win

**Anthee Carassava** Athens

Greece's ruling New Democracy conservatives won the general election yesterday but fell tantalisingly short of claiming a majority, raising the possibility of a second vote.

With most votes counted, Kyriakos Mitsotakis and his centre-right party were well ahead, claiming almost 41 per cent of the vote. Greece's interior ministry projected that New Democracy could win 145 seats in parliament, six short of a majority.

The prime minister claimed it was a "political earthquake" and that his party had a mandate from the Greek people. "The ballot results … show that New Democracy has the approval of the people to rule, strong and autonomous," he told cheering crowds outside his party's headquarters in Athens.

The party's main rival, the left-wing Syriza, saw its share of the vote fall to about 20 per cent. The socialist PASOK party, once a dominant force in Greek politics, claimed just over 12 per cent.

Mitsotakis will have three days to form a coalition before passing on the task to the runner-up party. If no party can form a coalition, a new election would be called to take place by July 2.

# FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

A military parade by Hezbollah is an unusual event, but its message to the old enemy — Israel — is the same as ever

**Richard Spencer**

LEBANON





**Who knew Hezbollah had a marching band? I certainly didn't, but that may have been my ignorance: the Lebanese Shia militia and would-be vanquisher of Israel has kept western journalists at a distance for the past 15 years or so.**

**That ended yesterday, at least for the time being, with a bang. Lots of bangs, in fact, as masked fighters paraded weaponry, stormed hilltops and practised martial arts routines before an admiring crowd and a more sceptical one of Lebanese and foreign reporters.**

**The "military operation" had been planned for weeks and advertised to journalists a short time beforehand. What was not clear before we set off in convoy from Beirut was what this special "operation" was. Neither was it entirely clear afterwards. It was certainly the biggest show of strength Hezbollah had put on in public for years, if not since its inception in Lebanon's civil war.**

**Journalists are occasionally invited to witness Shia parades in Dahiyeh, the group's south Beirut stronghold, or to see mementoes of battles with the "Zionist occupier" at Mleeta, the Hezbollah museum in the mountains near the Israeli border. This was on a different scale.**

**The band greeted visiting dignitaries to a parade ground at Aaramta, 12 miles from the border, part of a Hezbollah base that, to the best of my knowledge, has never been open to outside inspection.**

**Seated in the viewing stands, we were greeted with lengthy speeches paying special tribute to the brigade of hacks and the "families of the martyrs" — widows, mostly, dressed in black Iranian-style chador, accompanied by cheerful children in western-style jeans and T-shirts.**

**What we were about to see would be a demonstration of how Hezbollah's soldiers would "come from where you know and where you do not know, come from under the ground and above it, from the sea and from the land".**

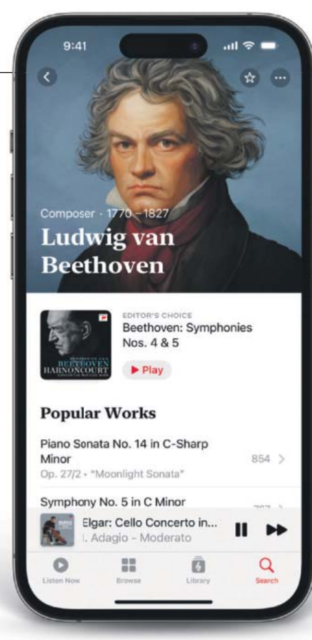
**There was not much coming from under the ground, but there were a lot of motorbikes and explosions, culminating in an assault on the hillside opposite, where Israeli flags were shot, blown up and finally replaced by the yellow of Hezbollah.**

**Souped-up military parades are a standard feature of Arab regimes. Also standard is the rhetoric about Israel's coming defeat. It took a final address by Hashem Safieddine, a Shia cleric who heads Hezbollah's executive council, to give a coded explanation. He spoke of a new balance in the region — a reference to the reconciliation between Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran — and the balance with Israel. "If you try to change the balance," he said, addressing Binyamin Netanyahu by name, "we will rain down our precision missiles".**

**This was a defensive message, though, not a declaration of war — a show of loyalty to Hezbollah's paymasters in Tehran. Nothing was revealed that would strike fear in Israel. What does cause sleepless nights is those precision missiles, and it was noticeable that if any are in Aaramta, they are well-hidden.**

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# Rapping shepherd earns flock of followers with his tale of hardship

Adam Sage

A mountain shepherd has become an unlikely star in France after a rap song he performed in protest at his working conditions went viral.

Félix Portello, 33, used the song, *Niche à Chiens* (dog house), to criticise the 4 square metre huts for shepherds watching over flocks in the Vanoise national park in the French Alps.

"No gas to cook, no heating… no room to stand up, a mattress covering the whole floor," he raps in the video, which has been viewed more than 38,000 times and attracted press and television coverage. "It's not a place for people, not even a place for dogs."



**Félix Portello criticises his housing in the song Niche à Chiens (dog house)**

Portello, a former scientist who is employed by breeders to look after flocks in mountain pastures over the summer, has formed a group — PastorX & the Black Patoux — and is working on an album.

He blames Vanoise park managers for the poor accommodation, saying they are more interested in "dosh" than ecology. "The problem is the [free] market," the left-wing shepherd raps — somewhat questionably, given that three quarters of the park's annual budget of about €7.4 million is funded by the state.

Portello said national parks had been unwilling to pay for decent accommodation since the return of wolves to the country in the 1990s. The species had been hunted to extinction in France in the 20th century. The reappearance of the species has meant that "we are asked to look after flocks all the time, 24/7. We have to stay in places that had been abandoned by men a century ago."

Portello said he and his colleague sometimes had to sleep together in the huts with their six dogs. "We have neither toilets nor showers. Walkers cannot believe it when they see us washing in a stream 500 m from our hut," he said.

The profession has changed in recent years, with the arrival of more women and young urbanites in search of a new life. They are paid about €1,600 a month but say they are often expected to work 80-hour weeks.

An official said the park had installed the huts as an emergency measure but that it was the responsibility of the breeders, or of local councils, to put up proper shepherd accommodation.

# Rivals vie to bag Scholz's old satchel

**Germany**

**Oliver Moody** Berlin

For 40 years Olaf Scholz has carried around the same leather satchel containing briefing notes, reading glasses, his party membership file and often a book: the novels of Thomas Mann and Günter Grass or a dense history.

Now chancellor of Germany, Scholz is still seldom seen without the increasingly battered bag, which has travelled to Kyiv, Washington and Tokyo.

For a man with a strong taste for privacy and an understated appearance, it has become the closest thing there is to a Scholz trademark: a symbol of a politician who prizes routine, diligence and cautious professionalism. The satchel has taken on such a status that two institutions are already vying to secure it for posterity once he is done with it.

The House of History in Bonn, a museum chronicling postwar Germany, wants to add the bag to a collection that features Helmut Kohl's brown corduroy sofas and Angela Merkel's Siemens S55 mobile phone.

A rival bid comes from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a think tank that in effect acts as the brain and shadow diplomatic service for Scholz's centre-left Social Democratic party.

It is far from clear, however, whether Scholz plans to surrender the satchel any time soon. He remains attached to the bag and aides say that he is quietly confident of remaining in power after the next Bundestag election in 2025.

"It's practical. You can fit a lot in it," Scholz once said of his satchel. "Some of my colleagues think it's getting worn. I call it 'patina'."

MAURO SCROBOGNA/LAPRESSE/SHUTTERSTOCK/REX SHUTTERSTOCK






## Climate protesters turn the Trevi black over deadly floods

**The water in Rome's Trevi Fountain turned black when climate change activists contaminated it with dye yesterday (James Imam writes).**

**Seven protesters linked to the Ultima Generazione (Last Generation) tipped buckets of diluted vegetable carbon into the 18th-century fountain.**

**They claimed the government's investment in fossil fuels had contributed to the recent flooding that has killed 14 people, before being dragged away by the police. A group spokeswoman said the activists were being held in custody.**

**Italy has voiced opposition to EU plans to limit fossil fuel use in recent months and abstained from a European Commission vote in March to end the sale of $CO_2$-emitting cars in 2035.**

Activists tipped buckets of diluted dye into the Trevi Fountain in Rome in protest at the Italian government's fuel policies before police dragged them away

**Emergency services were still battling yesterday to save swathes of the northeastern region from the water. The number of displaced people has risen to 36,000 and Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister, has returned early from the G7 summit in Japan to visit the affected areas.**

**A helicopter trying to fix electricity lines plummeted 50m on Saturday in the Lugo area, near the ancient town of Ravenna, injuring four people.**

**Emergency efforts have been largely focused on Ravenna, where dangerously full rivers risk overtopping their banks and imperilling eight Unesco World Heritage sites.**

**Michele de Pascale, the mayor, said there was "a race against time" to build barriers from soil and pump water from flooding fields up a canal. "If the rescue effort continues like this, we are optimistic," he said. "We have a whole week of forecasted sun ahead."**

# Macron ahead in battle of the gamers

**France**

**Adam Sage** Paris

It is an age-old rivalry but with a 21st-century twist. Britain and France are competing to win over the world's best professional video gamers as each seeks global prominence in esports.

President Macron had cause for cheer yesterday. His efforts to secure a prominent esports tournament for France had proved successful and his favourite professional video gamers, Team Vitality, had reached the final.

The French drive to promote itself as Europe's esports capital is, however, causing irritation in Britain, where it is suspected of pursuing a go-it-alone strategy that favours money over medals. The video game industry as a whole is worth about $200 billion a year. Esports, which involve competitions where gamers play against each other, represent a small percentage of that but they are expected to grow fast.

Prize money at the big tournaments already runs to millions of dollars. Singapore is to stage an Olympic esports week next month and fans hope to see video game competitions in the real Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028.

China, the US, South Korea and Brazil are leading the way, at least in terms of attracting tournaments, and Germany and Poland are among other main destinations.

Macron, however, is determined to transform France into a "great esports nation". His government announced a national esports strategy in January.

He led the lobbying to stage Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) Major Championship in Paris over the weekend. He invited French Esports Federation officials to travel with him in his presidential plane and waived visa requirements for players.

CS:GO, which pits terrorists seeking to plant an explosive device against counter-terrorists trying to stop them, is among the most important of the forty-odd esports games, along with League of Legends and DOTA 2.

The Paris tournament filled the 12,000 seats at the Accor Arena for four days and the games were watched by up to three million people online. The total prize money was $1.25 million. Team Vitality, a wealthy Paris-based outfit backed by Macron, reached the final against the German GamerLegion.

The French see such tournaments as a way of luring international visitors while modernising the country's image. The initiative is part of Macron's attempt to cast France as a magnet for cutting-edge technology and comes after he inaugurated a €5.2 billion Taiwan-owned car battery factory in Dunkirk and welcomed Elon Musk to the Elysée last week.

"What is in play through esports is an economic issue but also a cultural issue," Cédric O, Macron's former digital sector minister, said. "It is a question of influence for France."

Pénélope Komitès, the deputy mayor of Paris, who heads the city's innovation and attractiveness committee, said she wanted Paris to become the "capital of esports in Europe".

Rishi Sunak is being urged not to let Britain get left behind. After Macron scrapped visas for participants in top esports competitions Whitehall officials told the British Esports Federation last week that they would do likewise.

The federation has announced the development of a campus in Sunderland to search for future British stars.

Britain is part of the Global Esports Federation, which holds competitions where national teams compete for medals and glory. France, however, has refused to join, preferring to focus on tournaments organised by publishers offering pots of prize money.

Chester King, chief executive of the British federation, described it as "classic French", adding: "Their position is that they want to focus on developing [esports] within the country … But my point to them is that they are not letting their countrymen [and] women have the opportunity to win medals."

# Biden decries Republicans in debt row

**Keiran Southern**

President Biden has said Republicans must move from their "extreme position" on negotiating an increase on the US debt ceiling as the deadline for avoiding a catastrophic default looms.

America is nearing its legal debt limit of $31.4 trillion and unless Congress approves a rise it will not be allowed to borrow any more by law.

Janet Yellen, the Treasury secretary, has said a new limit should be in place by June 1 and that failure to reach a deal could be disastrous for the world economy.

Republicans, who control the House of Representatives, are seeking big public spending cuts before voting through new measures. The White House has resisted their demands.

"Much of what they've already proposed is simply . . . unacceptable," Biden told reporters in Hiroshima, Japan, after a meeting of G7 leaders.

If the limit is reached, the US government could be unable to pay federal staff and could struggle to pay the interest it owes on sovereign debt.

ADAM GRAY/SWNS



**From here to eternity** The Infinity Mirror Room at an exhibition by the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, entitled "I Spend Each Day Embracing Flowers", features new sculptures elaborating on her signature motifs of pumpkins and flowers, and paintings. It runs at the David Zwirner gallery's three locations in New York until July 21

# Murder case shines a light on Silicon Valley hedonism

**United States**
**Keiran Southern** Los Angeles

The fatal stabbing of a tech executive has exposed San Francisco's underground party scene, dubbed the "Lifestyle", where hedonism rules.

Bob Lee, a software engineer who created the Cash App payment service, was killed last month outside a luxury condominium building in the city. His death at first appeared to highlight a perceived sense of the lawlessness that had enveloped San Francisco, but soon the case was pulling back the curtain on an underground lifestyle.

At parties in multimillion-dollar Bay Area mansions, executives swap partners and take designer drugs. "Night turns to day, the group reconvenes for breakfast, after which some may have intercourse again," the author Emily Chang said.

"Eat, drugs, sex, repeat," she wrote in *Brotopia: Breaking Up the Boys' Club of Silicon Valley*. Tech executives, she wrote, justified their excesses by boasting "about how they're overturning traditional paradigms".

Some say Silicon Valley's freewheeling ethos stems from the counterculture of the 1960s, when hippies flocked to San Francisco to build a community based on free love and a progressive attitude towards drugs.

Others argue that the so-called Lifestyle is the inevitable result of having access to tremendous wealth.

Fred Turner, a Stanford University professor of communication and an expert on the 1960s counterculture, said the era influenced how Silicon Valley's world-conquering businesses were structured, but not the private lives of their founders. "The roots of the counterculture in Silicon Valley are deep and wide," he said. "But the actual libertine side of it, the drug use side of it, I think of it as much closer to New York in the 1980s."

Lee, 43, took cocaine, ecstasy and ketamine at raves around the world, friends said. Hours before his death, he had attended a party at the home of an alleged drug dealer, according to prosecutors in the case against his alleged murderer.

Nima Momeni, an Iranian-born IT consultant, has pleaded not guilty to his murder. Lee is alleged to have been in a sexual relationship with Momeni's married sister.

Although friends of Lee said he enjoyed partying and taking drugs, Krista Lee, his estranged wife, said she had never heard of the Lifestyle. However, she told The Wall Street Journal that Lee microdosed ketamine to treat depression.

Microdosing — taking a small amount of a drug for alleged mental health benefits — is believed to be popular among Silicon Valley execs.

Dana Wagner, a friend of Lee who worked at the payment company Block, said that he had found himself in strange circles. "He was also hanging out with people who weren't great people," Wagner told the newspaper. "There are a lot of swingers, cheaters and liars in that crowd."

Amy Andersen runs Linx Dating, a California matchmaking service that finds wives for tech industry leaders, and said the culture could be "crazy" when it came to sex and drugs. "That counterculture definitely exists," she said. "It's always been part of the Silicon Valley ethos and DNA."

# Epstein 'threatened Gates over affair'

**Keiran Southern**

Jeffrey Epstein appeared to threaten Bill Gates after discovering that the Microsoft co-founder had had an affair with a Russian bridge player, it has been reported.

Gates, one of the world's richest men, met Mila Antonova in about 2010, when she was in her twenties, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Antonova met Epstein, the disgraced financier and convicted sex offender, three years later and he was said to have paid for her to attend coding school. After failing to convince Gates, now 67, to invest in a charitable fund he was trying to set up with JPMorgan Chase, Epstein emailed Gates in 2017 asking him to reimburse Antonova's school fees.

The tone of the message was that Epstein could reveal the affair, according to the *Journal*.

A spokeswoman for Gates said he did not make the payment. She said: "Mr Gates met with Epstein solely for philanthropic purposes. Having failed repeatedly to draw Mr Gates beyond these matters, Epstein tried unsuccessfully to leverage a past relationship to threaten Mr Gates."

In 2008 Epstein was convicted of procuring a child for prostitution and spent time in prison in Florida. Gates met Epstein several times after his conviction and has described the association as a "huge mistake".

Epstein, 66, was arrested in 2019 on federal charges of sex trafficking minors in Florida and New York, and was found dead in prison in August of that year. A medical examiner ruled the death a suicide.

Antonova has said she did not know who Epstein was when they met.

Melinda French Gates, 58, filed for divorce from Gates in 2021. She said Gates's relationship with Epstein had been a factor in their separation.

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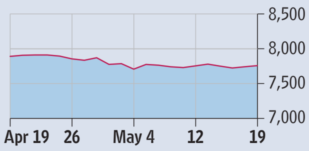
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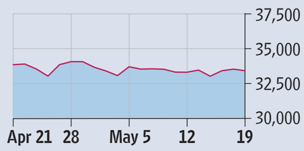
# Business

## WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)

**FTSE 100**
7,756.87 (+2.25) ▲

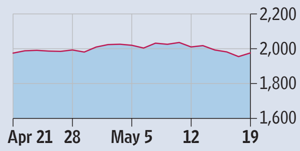



**Dow Jones**
33,426.63 (+201.79) ▲

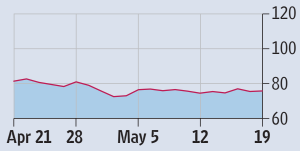



## COMMODITIES

**Gold**
$1,976.03 (-34.45) ▼

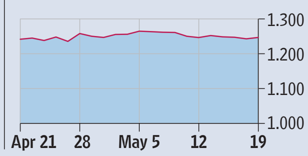



**Brent crude** (6pm)
$75.73 (+1.23) ▲

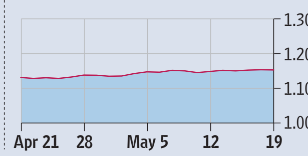



## CURRENCIES

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**£/€**
€1.1523 (+0.0042) ▲




# Rolls-Royce core division has been mismanaged, says new boss

**Emily Gosden**

The new chief executive of Rolls-Royce has delivered another damning critique of its performance, saying that one of its core divisions has been "grossly mismanaged".

Tufan Erginbilgic, 63, took the top job at the aerospace and engineering group at the start of this year and weeks later infamously described the group as a "burning platform". In his latest broadside, the former BP executive took aim at the performance of its power systems division, which makes diesel and gas engines for use in superyachts, trains and mining lorries, and for back-up power generation.

Erginbilgic told the Financial Times that the fact margins had fallen in the division despite increased revenues was evidence of "mismanagement", as costs had not been kept under control. He said the business had a lot of potential but needed "to have a clear strategy and it needs to be managed properly".

This year Erginbilgic launched a review of Rolls-Royce that is expected to conclude in the second half. There has long been speculation over whether the group would offload its power systems unit, but Erginbilgic said he believed it had a role to play in the company in the long term.

Rolls-Royce has three main divisions: civil aerospace, which builds engines for Airbus and Boeing passenger jets and business aircraft; defence, which makes engines and propulsion systems for the military; and power systems, which produced 26 per cent of revenues last year.

Since joining Rolls, Erginbilgic has installed a string of executives, including new heads of defence and civil aerospace. In two decades at BP, the Turkish-British national rose to become chief executive of the oil major's refining and marketing business and was credited with turning around its fortunes.

A spokesman said: "Tufan has been very clear with investors that power systems has been mismanaged in the past, and has pointed to the fact that in 2022 margins reduced while revenues increased because costs rose and pricing did not keep pace. He also has been clear that this situation is being corrected and he expects to see the benefits from the second half of this year."

# Rigging of Libor was 'state-led'

## Global push in 2008 saw benchmark lowered

**Andy Verity, James Hurley**

A co-ordinated drive by national central banks and governments pressed banks to manipulate the Libor and Euribor benchmark interest rates at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, an exposé to be published next week alleges.

This was at the same time as dozens of former traders were criminally prosecuted for much less serious rate "manipulation", it is claimed.

A new book, exclusively serialised in The Times, claims that investigating agencies, including the FBI in the United States and Britain's financial regulator, were told in November 2010 of an international drive to get Libor and Euribor rates down, regardless of the real cost of borrowing cash.

Jurors in nine criminal trials for far smaller-scale interest rate "rigging" in London and New York between 2015 and 2019 were never shown this evidence of manipulation by governments and central banks, the book claims.

David Davis, the former Brexit secretary, has called for an inquiry into claims that "British and US authorities covered up state involvement in Libor-rigging and the scapegoating of low and middle-ranking bankers, some of whom have spent years in jail". The MP also expressed concerns in parliament that the Treasury select committee "may have been misled by state agencies about the knowledge and involvement of the state in setting false rates".

The publication comes ahead of an expected ruling shortly from the Criminal Cases Review Commission on an application by Tom Hayes, a former UBS and Citigroup trader who was jailed for Libor manipulation, for his conviction to be overturned.

Libor, which stands for the London interbank offered rate, and Euribor, its European equivalent, were meant to reflect the rates at which banks could borrow from each other. They were key benchmarks in the financial system that were used as the basis of pricing products worth trillions of pounds, from mortgages to student loans.

The evidence of alleged manipulation by central banks and governments is set out in *Rigged*, a forthcoming book by Andy Verity, the BBC's economics correspondent, which shows evidence of central banks pressuring commercial banks into publishing rates that were artificially low to calm panic in financial markets.

The investigation found evidence that in October 2008, the Bank of England and the European Central Bank, along with three European national central banks and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, intervened in the setting of Libor and Euribor. The UK government also allegedly was involved in pressuring banks to "manipulate" Libor — meaning, as defined by criminal courts, seeking to obtain movements in the benchmark while "disregarding the proper basis for setting Libor".

Nineteen traders have been convicted and nine jailed because of court rulings that outlawed any influence on Libor apart from the interest rates on offer on the money markets at

**Continued on page 32**

MATT ALEXANDER/PA



**Grape expectations** Scrapping retained EU laws could boost UK vineyards such as Nyetimber by £180 million, says Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary. Benefits would include planting new types of vine, including disease-resistant strains

# Legal firms merge into 'global elite'

**Tracey Boles**

Allen & Overy and Shearman & Sterling are merging to create what they believe is the "first fully integrated global elite law firm".

The new company, to be called Allen Overy Shearman Sterling, will be the only global firm with American law, English law and local law capabilities "in equal measure", the pair claim.

Together, it will have 3,900 lawyers in 49 offices and approximately $3.4 billion in combined revenue. The combination will "accelerate the growth strategy of both firms".

Called A&O Shearman for short, the new entity aims to meet clients' needs for a "seamless global offering of the highest quality and depth" to "support them in navigating an increasingly complex legal, regulatory and geopolitical environment".

Shearman & Sterling will gain access to a dramatically expanded "rest of the world" offering across practice areas, and Allen & Overy will benefit from increased board-level recognition and expanded access to a corporate client base in the United States.

Wim Dejonghe, 62, senior partner at Allen & Overy, said: "This combination of two great firms is such an exciting step for us.

"Both companies have a history of excellence and together we think A&O Shearman will be a firm unlike any other in the world."

Adam Hakki, 51, senior partner at Shearman & Sterling, said: "Client need for global elite firms has never been greater. They are calling for integrated global legal solutions and advice: merging with Allen & Overy will dramatically accelerate our ability to meet their needs in an increasingly complex environment. Allen & Overy is an outstanding company whose work we have long admired and thought of as a kindred spirit."

The proposed merger is subject to closing conditions, including a vote of the partners of each of the respective firms.

## Need to know

**1** President Biden has said Republicans must move from their "extreme position" on negotiating a raising of America's debt ceiling as the deadline for avoiding a default looms. The United States is nearing its legal debt limit of $31.4 trillion and unless Congress approves an increase it will not be allowed to borrow any more. **Page 30**

**2** A co-ordinated drive by central banks and governments pressed banks to manipulate the Libor and Euribor benchmark interest rates at the height of the 2008 financial crisis, an exposé alleges. At the same time dozens of former traders were criminally prosecuted for much less serious rate "manipulation", it is claimed. **Page 31**

**3** The new chief executive of Rolls-Royce has launched another damning critique of its performance, saying that one of its core divisions has been "grossly mismanaged". Tufan Erginbilgic took aim at the power systems division, which manufactures diesel and gas engines. **Page 31**

**4** Allen & Overy and Shearman & Sterling are merging to create what they call the "first fully integrated global elite law firm". The combined business, to be called Allen Overy Shearman Sterling, will be the only global firm with American law, English law and local law capabilities "in equal measure". **Page 31**

**5** The owner of Wagamama is facing pressure to split itself up before its annual meeting this week, where embattled bosses will face questions on pay and performance. TMR Capital has become the latest investor to call for an overhaul of The Restaurant Group after taking a small stake in it this month.

**6** Michael Gove, the housing secretary, is rethinking his controversial decision to block a housing development in Kent that he had said was of a "generic suburban nature". Berkeley Homes is challenging his ruling in court.

**7** Workers in the hospitality industry have reported receiving above-average salary increases last year as the sector struggles with a skills shortage. Their average pay rise of 9.5 per cent compares with the national average of 6.6 per cent. **Page 34**

**8** The housing market has enjoyed a delayed spring boost, with sales prices rising at the highest rate so far this year as mortgage rates ease. The average price of properties sold in Britain hit a record £372,894 this month, according to Rightmove — a 1.8 per cent increase on April and ahead of a historic average rise in May of 1 per cent. **Page 34**

**9** The proportion of new homes being sold before they are built is falling rapidly as demand wanes among landlords hit by higher taxes and priced-out first-time buyers. **Page 37**

**10** Plans for a £900 million life sciences campus at a GSK site in Stevenage, creating one of Europe's largest clusters, have been submitted to the local authority. **Page 37**

# Heat that led to Libor fix

In the first exclusive extract of an investigation into the Libor-rigging scandal, **Andy Verity** explains how in 2008 banks were being pressed into bringing down key interest rates




Gordon Brown, the prime minister, announced funding to protect banks and Bob

On Wednesday October 8, 2008, Gordon Brown, the prime minister, announced £50 billion in emergency funding to recapitalise UK banks. The same day, amid what The Times called a "crippling logjam in credit markets", six central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and the Bank of England, launched a co-ordinated cut in official interest rates.

With higher Libor, the rate that was meant to show the price banks were paying to lend to each other, it looked like this unprecedented intervention was not working. Markets around the world were in a full-blown panic, with share prices plummeting.

Now central banks decided to act together to get real borrowing rates down. At a brainstorming event at the Peterson Institute in Washington, the ECB said it would be doing everything in its power to get rates down in Euribor, the equivalent of Libor for euros.

On Sunday October 12, after talks between Brown, Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, President Sarkozy of France, José Manuel Barroso, the European Union president, and Jean-Claude Trichet, the ECB president, the leaders each called for "co-ordinated" action. The next day, Lloyds/HBOS and Royal Bank of Scotland were accepting £37 billion of government cash, effectively nationalising two of Britain's biggest banks.

Still Libor would not fall. In the UK, senior civil servants including Jeremy Heywood, chief of staff at 10 Downing Street, and Tom Scholar, second permanent secretary to the Treasury, wrestled with the issue. How could they get Libor to come down?

There were two possibilities. One: make money cheaper to borrow by flooding the market with cheap offers to lend from central banks at lower interest rates. The other way was simpler, if a little less legitimate: simply order the banks to put in lower rates.

At Barclays, Mark Dearlove, a senior manager, was already coming under pressure to do exactly this. Soon after Brown's £50 billion emergency package, he was called by John Cummins, the top treasurer at RBS, who told him Barclays was "spoiling it for everyone" by keeping Libor high.

Dearlove was then called to a meeting at the Bank of England with Paul Tucker, a deputy governor, who told him Barclays' Libor rate was causing concern and that it should be "put down" as it was receiving attention from "the West".

That was City of London code for the UK government in Westminster. Knowing everything that his colleagues Peter Johnson, Pete Spence and Colin Bermingham had told him, that Libor and Euribor were already far too low to reflect the real cost of borrowing cash, Dearlove defied the Bank of England and did not pass on Tucker's instruction.

But Tucker and others would not stop with Dearlove.

"Obviously we are v concerned that US rates are tumbling but we remain stuck!" Heywood wrote to Tucker on October 22. By "we", he meant Downing Street.

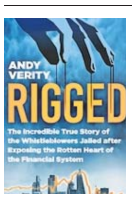
The same day, Tucker emailed Bob Diamond, Barclays' deputy chief executive, and John Varley, group chief executive. When they spoke, Tucker told Diamond he had received calls from a number of senior figures in Whitehall to question why Barclays was always towards the top end of Libor-pricing among 16 banks. Diamond explained that Barclays had a policy to submit rates based on the real interest rates being offered in the markets.

On October 26, and again on October 28, Heywood emailed Tucker and Scholar, wanting to find a way to speed up the fall in Libor.

At around 3pm on Wednesday, October 29, Diamond took a call from Tucker, who repeated the point he had made a week before.

Shortly after putting the phone down, Diamond dictated a file note, recording that "Mr Tucker said the levels of calls he was receiving from Whitehall were 'senior' and while he was certain we did not need advice, it did not always need to be the case that we appeared as high as we have recently".

To Diamond, the risk was that government officials might conclude "they can't fund themselves, we need to nationalise them" on the back of the appearance of higher funding costs that their Libor rates seemed to indicate. He




***Rigged: The Incredible True Story of the Whistleblowers Jailed after Exposing the Rotten Heart of the Financial System*** **by Andy Verity will be published on June 1 (Flint Books, £25)**

# Hedge fund orders Wagamama split

**Emma Powell**



**Activists want Wagamama to go private**

The owner of Wagamama is facing pressure to split itself up, with its embattled management team expected to be questioned about pay and performance at the annual meeting this week.

TMR Capital has become the latest investor to call for an overhaul of The Restaurant Group, after taking a small stake this month. The Florida-based hedge fund has approached the group, which also owns Brunning & Price, Frankie & Benny's and Chiquito, with proposals to sell off all its businesses except Wagamama, according to The Sunday Telegraph. The fund wants the group to expand Wagamama before taking it private in a sale.

Derek Vago, strategic adviser to the fund, said that it wanted The Restaurant Group "to acknowledge that the future is not as a plc. It has to start with that." He added: "Everything is non-core other than Wagamama."

Shareholders, principally Oasis Capital Management, have taken issue with the "unpalatable" pay of Andy Hornby, 56, the chief executive, after four years of losses. Oasis said the group had "one of the worst-performing share prices of any UK leisure company".

The activist fund, which is using its 12.3 per cent stake to lead a rebellion, wrote to Ken Hanna, 70, The Restaurant Group chairman, to express its "deep concern regarding the equal treatment of shareholders".

The letter claimed that ISS, a proxy shareholder adviser, had been made aware of a commitment by The Restaurant Group to review the remuneration policy, whereas this had "not been (nor has it subsequently been) made public by the company". Oasis said it would be voting against Hanna and Hornby at Tuesday's meeting, as well as various pay-related resolutions. The fund, based in Hong Kong, has won the backing of Glass Lewis, another proxy adviser, which said it had "serious reservations" about The Restaurant Group's remuneration report and policy and has recommended that shareholders vote against both.

Hornby is a former banker, best known for leading HBOS when it had to be rescued by Lloyds Banking Group and £20.5 billion of taxpayer capital at the height of the financial crisis in 2008. He has led The Restaurant Group since 2019 and received a total pay package of £792,000 last year, including a £125,000 bonus for achieving targets related to energy consumption, customer satisfaction and employee turnover.

The Restaurant Group said: "We will continue to let our numbers do the talking. As is standard industry practice, in the event of a low vote on any resolution the company will consult with shareholders and respond as appropriate."

The hospitality group reported a £86.8 million pre-tax loss last year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Libor-rigging was 'state-led'

which a bank could borrow and lend cash.

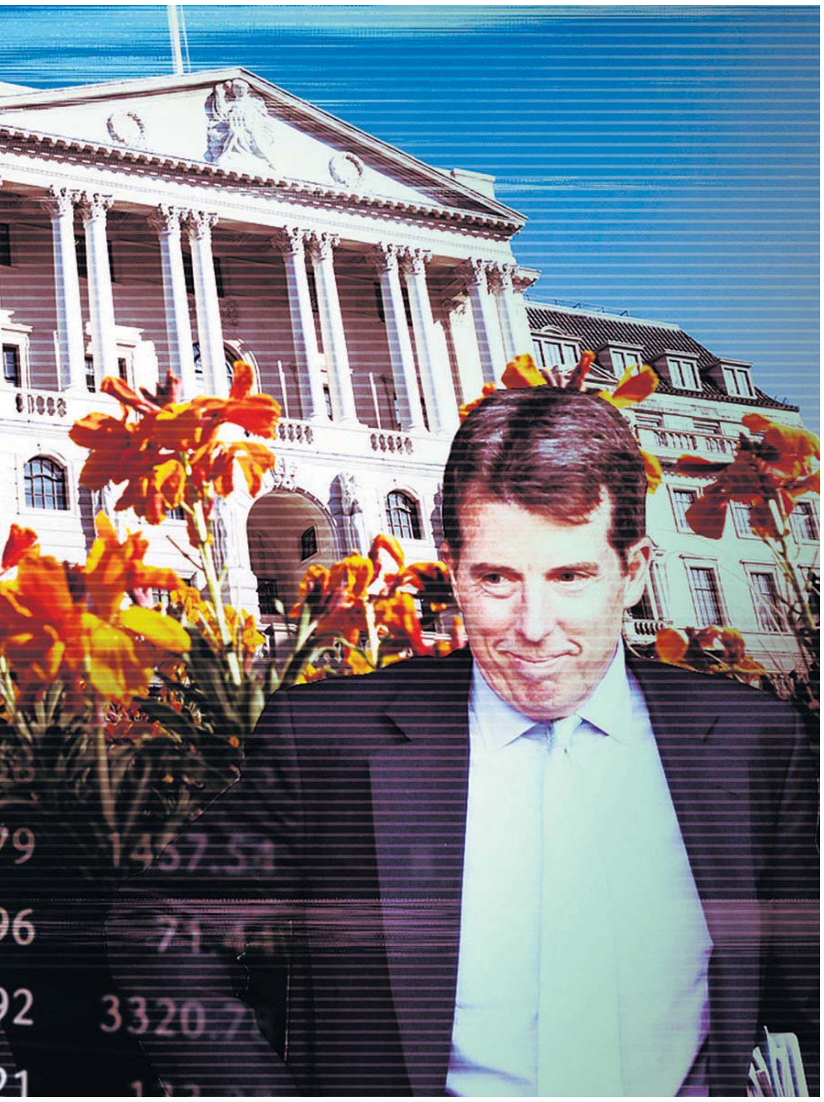
Andrew Tyrie, who chaired the Treasury committee when it explored Libor-rigging, expressed concern that claims in the book suggested the "committee's inquiry into the Libor scandal was not told the whole truth".

The Bank of England called the claims "unsubstantiated". A spokeswoman did not respond to detailed questions, but said "it was entirely false to suggest that the Bank sought to withhold information relevant to the criminal investigations or any resulting proceedings". It added that Libor was not regulated.

The FCA said: "What was known about inappropriate Libor submissions was thoroughly looked into a decade ago. Full disclosure of evidence was provided as part of criminal prosecutions."

The ECB said it "strongly rebuts the assertions made by the BBC, which misrepresent the role of a central bank in implementing monetary policy. The ECB has always acted in line with its mandate and in full compliance with the law." The FBI, the Fed, Barclays and the Treasury declined to comment.

# came from the top



Diamond, at that time at Barclays, came under pressure to lower the Libor rate

called his lieutenant, Jerry del Missier, the Barclays capital president. We should get our Libor rates down, Diamond said. "We shouldn't be outliers."

Del Missier phoned Dearlove, who didn't doubt what del Missier told him. To meet the wishes of the government, Tucker had gone over his head to get Barclays' Libor rates down.

Dearlove made two phone calls. First, he spoke to Spence, who set Libor in pounds sterling. Then he called Johnson, the bank's senior Libor-setter for dollars.

"Mate, I've been on fire tonight," Dearlove said, sounding stressed and dreading what he was about to order Johnson to do. "The bottom line is you're going to absolutely hate this, and I've spoken to Spence about it as well, but we've had some very serious pressure from the UK government and the Bank of England about pushing our Libors lower."

Johnson — who later would be jailed for Libor-rigging — replied: "So I'll push them below a realistic level of where I think I can get money?"

"PJ, I'm on your side, 100 per cent. These guys don't see it. They're bent out of shape. They're calling everybody from Diamond to Varley to Jerry [del Missier]."

"Colin's just told us he's going to get a call from the ECB telling him to put his Libors lower as well," said Johnson.

"Well I'm not worried about what the ECB says. But if they call our senior management, you know, we understand that. You and I and Spence and everyone agree that it's the wrong thing to do ... I am as reluctant as you are. I've had several of these conversations already and these guys have just turned around and said, 'Just do it.'"

"Unbelievable!" Johnson replied.

"And what I would say, Pete, is the following: let's try to create a virtuous circle where Libors go lower. But if they don't, in three [or] four days or [a] week's time, let's go back and challenge Jerry, Bob Diamond, all of those guys and say, go back to the Bank of England and say, 'You guys are full of shit.'"

After telling a colleague, Richard Frisbee, about the secret instruction, Johnson dropped his Libor estimate of the cost of borrowing dollars by no less than 60 basis points, a large move on the money markets. Sure enough, Barclays' Libor came in lower, but still at the top of the pack. Brown finally got the response he wanted in return for his cash injection. Whether or not he knew it, the move was taking an already fraudulent Libor to new lows.

On November 11, Johnson took a phone call from Miles Storey, his Barclays colleague. It was not only the Bank of England applying pressure, Johnson told him.

Storey shrugged: "If the bigwigs right at the very top of the whole financial system want this to happen then, quote, 'so be it'."

**TOMORROW**
In the second extract from Andy Verity's Libor book, the FBI enters the picture

# Gove rethinks refusal of 'ugly' homes

Tracey Boles

The housing secretary is rethinking his decision to block a housing development because the planned homes were of a "generic suburban nature", The Times has learnt.

The developer, Berkeley Homes, had said it intended to challenge his decision in court.

It is understood that Michael Gove will ask the court to quash his original decision on the grounds that some of the figures used about housing supply in the area were out of date. Then he will make a final decision.

Gove had said that Berkeley's plans for the homes did not "reflect the expectations" of the local design code. It was the first time the housing secretary had used his powers to block a development on aesthetic grounds since he pledged last year to crack down on "ugly identikit" houses "plonked down without regard to the shape and character of existing communities".



Michael Gove had vowed to block "identikit" houses

The 165 homes were due to be built in Crane Valley, an area of outstanding natural beauty about 12 miles east of Tunbridge Wells.

The planning application was called in by Robert Jenrick, Gove's predecessor as housing secretary, in April 2021. An independent inspector completed a report, submitted to ministers, that recommended the application be approved.

However, Gove decided to refuse permission. A letter dated April 6 that detailed his thinking said that "the harm to the landscape and scenic beauty" attracted great weight.

Rival developers and the Home Builders Federation were dismayed by the decision, saying it meant that any development could be scrapped at the whim of Gove.

Tunbridge Wells council had approved the development on a greenbelt site to improve supply in the area. Forty per cent of the homes planned for the development at Cranbrook were designated as "affordable".

The latest twist does not mean that building the homes will start soon as it is subject to legal proceedings. A letter from Berkeley's lawyers challenging Gove's decision outlined six reasons why it thought he was wrong. It claimed that the refusal had been based partly on "erroneous and out-of-date conclusions", particularly with regards to the shortfall of housing in the area, which Gove had said was "slight".

Berkeley declined to comment further.

## The week ahead

Inflation is expected to fall back into single digits for the first time in eight months, according to official figures that could mark the start of a sharp decline in the rate of prices growth.

Data from the Office for National Statistics is set to show that headline consumer prices inflation fell back to a 8.4 per cent in April, down from 10.1 per cent in March, according to projections by the Bank of England. The Bank and other forecasters expect inflation to fall back significantly in the coming months as last year's energy price surge falls out of the annual inflation calculation. The Bank has a target for inflation to reach 2 per cent within the next three years.

A measure of core inflation, which strips out energy and food prices, is on course to strengthen from the 6.2 per cent recorded in March to 6.4 per cent in April, according to figures from Investec Economics.

Wednesday's inflation data will be preceded by monthly figures on the public finances that are forecast to



Inflation has driven up the price of fashion for high street shoppers

show more improvement in the public finances through lower public sector borrowing. Retail sales figures on Friday, closely monitored to gauge the strength of consumer spending, are set to have risen by 1.5 per cent between March and April, partly reversing the 0.9 per cent contraction recorded in March.

### TOMORROW

When SSP reveals its half-year figures, investors will be hoping that demand for international travel and workers coming back to work will more than offset the impact of rail strikes in Britain.

The Upper Crust owner — a big airport and railway caterer — reported muted trading in the UK in the first quarter because of strikes. It is estimated that a strike day delivers a hit of about £1 million to the group's top line, with days either side also likely to be negatively affected. It is forecasting full-year revenues of between £2.9 billion and £3 billion, with underlying earnings of £250 million to £280 million.

**Interims** Avon Protection, Benchmark Holdings, Ixico, SSP, Topps Tiles, Victorian Plumbing, Watkin Jones
**Finals** Assura, Bytes Technology, Cranswick, FD Technologies, Helical, RS Group
**Trading update** Seraphim Space Trust

### WEDNESDAY

There should be no surprises when Marks & Spencer updates the City as the business has already said that it will take a hit from several factors — no longer receiving business rates relief, its exit from Russia and inflationary pressures.

The high street retailer expects profits of about £415 million, with an analysts' consensus of around £425 million. The forecast is behind last year's £522.9 million and is well behind the £1 billion pre-tax profit recorded in 1998 but it blows past M&S's performance immediately before the pandemic, a period during which it was relegated from the FTSE 100 share index after years of declining profit. What should be left is "a decent sales performance, offset by slightly disappointing gross margin", according to one analyst.

**Finals** C&C Group, Great Portland Estates, HICL Infrastructure, Marks & Spencer, N Brown, Pershing Square, Severn Trent, SSE
**Trading updates** Aviva, Close Brothers, Intertek, Kingfisher




Marks & Spencer: no surprises?

### FRIDAY

**Interims** IntegraFin
**Finals** HarbourVest Global, Volvere

### THURSDAY

Half-year figures from AJ Bell will give a fuller insight how one of Britain's biggest DIY investment platforms is faring amid volatile markets. The FTSE 250 company said in a second-quarter trading update last month that customer numbers at its main platform business had risen by 20,643 to 455,008 in the three months to the end of March. Assets under administration on the platform were also up 3 per cent at £68.6 billion. These numbers covered the period to the end of the tax year, a busy period for AJ Bell as customers rush to use their Isa allowances.

Last year Johnson Matthey, one of Britain's most venerable industrial companies, warned it was operating in a "challenging" market, blaming political and economic uncertainty as it braced for a fall in profits. In November, it said annual underlying operating profits would fall within a range of £458 million to £516 million in the year to March 31, down from £553 million the previous year.

The FTSE 250 manufacturer, which makes catalytic converters for vehicles, has counted the cost of supply chain disruption that slowed production by carmakers. In January it said it would join the clean energy gold rush sparked by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, signing a partnership with Plug Power, America's leading green hydrogen company.

**Interims** AJ Bell
**Finals** Intermediate Capital, Griffin Mining, Johnson Matthey, Pets At Home, Picton Property Income, QinetiQ, Renewi, Tate & Lyle, United Utilities, Workspace, Young & Co

## Business

# Brexit gives opportunity to simplify 'inconsistent and complex' VAT

Richard Tyler

The Treasury should conduct a thorough review of VAT to simplify the tax and see if rates should be changed because Britain has left the European Union, a leading accountancy body has said.

The 50-year-old tax is expected to raise £187 billion this year, according to Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts — about 18 per cent of all receipts. However, tax experts say it has become too "complex" and "inconsistent".

Anita Monteith, head of taxation policy at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, said that there was now "an opportunity to consider the simplification measures that would be appropriate".

The institute is hosting a conference in London today to examine how indirect taxes are working. Jim Harra, chief executive of HM Revenue & Customs, and Alex Cooksley, who heads international VAT and excise duties at the Treasury, are due to attend.

While the headline VAT rate is 20 per cent, governments have used a variety of rates to deliver policy goals and support business, including temporarily slashing the amount paid in restaurants to 5 per cent to help the industry during the pandemic. The prime minister claimed a Brexit dividend when removing VAT on tampons in 2021. A tax of 5 per cent had been charged previously.

Inconsistencies are common. Monteith cited the 5 per cent VAT rate for charging electric vehicles at home but 20 per cent for using street charging points. A scheme that allowed visitors from non-EU countries to recover the tax was withdrawn at the beginning of 2021. However, pressure is growing on the Treasury to rethink the decision.

"It's all just evolved over time and you feel there is a lack of strategic oversight of the structure of this tax now. There are huge opportunities, for example, in the area of sustainability," Monteith said, pointing to a review of VAT by the now-defunct Office of Tax Simplification in 2017, which suggested reforms.

GETTY



## Hospitality splashes out on pay increases

**Workers in the hospitality industry have reported receiving above-average salary increases last year as the sector struggles with a skills shortage (Emily Gosden writes).**

**Hospitality employees received an average pay rise of 9.5 per cent, according to a survey by Caterer.com, a hiring website, compared with the national average of 6.6 per cent.**

**Those working for pubs received the highest pay rises, at 11.3 per cent, the company found, while on a regional basis employees in Greater London and the northwest of England reported the highest pay increases.**

**The hospitality sector figures come from a survey of 500 employers and 751 employees through Censuswide on behalf of Caterer.com, while the national average comes from the Office for National Statistics.**

**The findings come despite the hospitality industry being among the sectors most affected by the cost of living crisis, as it contends with record high energy bills and food inflation.**

**Kathy Dyball, brand director of Caterer.com, said: "As the long-standing skills shortage continues to affect the sector, hospitality employers are focused on offering competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain the people they need.**

**"Our insights show that hospitality employees are now receiving pay rises well above the UK average worker, among other competitive benefits."**

**The company said its research showed that despite the national skills shortage, the number of people seeking jobs in the sector had risen.**



People working in the hospitality sector have benefited from bumper pay rises amid a staff shortage and a post-pandemic boom in business

# Sellers have spring in their step as house prices rise

Emma Powell

The housing market has enjoyed a delayed spring boost, with sales prices rising at the highest rate so far this year as mortgage rates ease.

The average price of properties sold in Britain hit a record £372,894 this month, according to Rightmove — a 1.8 per cent increase, or £6,647, on April and ahead of a historic average rise in May of 1 per cent. Prices were also 1.5 per cent higher than they were in the same month last year.

The largest monthly increases in asking prices were in London and the southeast, up by 2.8 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively. The average house price in the capital hit £696,477. Northeast England remained the cheapest region, where prices fell by 2.3 per cent to £179,693.

The discount from final asking price to agreed sale price has steadied at a nationwide average of 3.1 per cent, in line with normal market levels. Agreed sales numbers remain 3 per cent behind the pre-pandemic level in 2019.

Tim Bannister, Rightmove's director of property science, said: "This month's strong jump in new seller asking prices looks like a belated reaction and a sign of increasing confidence from sellers, as we'd usually see such a big monthly increase earlier in the spring season."

He suggested that one reason for rising confidence may be an easing of previously gloomy predictions for the market. He also said it was more likely

**£696,477**

**Average price of a property in London**
Source: Rightmove

that the market would continue to move towards a more normal level of activity this year after the exceptional business conducted during the pandemic, when stamp duty breaks turbocharged demand.

The record numbers defy warnings that higher interest rates, which translate to more expensive mortgages, and the rising cost of living will cause a sharp slowdown in the housing market.

Confidence has been helped by a reduction in mortgage borrowing costs from the highs reached in the aftermath of last September's mini-budget. Despite another increase in the base rate to 4.5 per cent, the average rate for a five-year fixed mortgage for homebuyers with a 15 per cent deposit was 4.52 per cent last week, down from 5.89 per cent in October. Investors expect only one more increase from the Bank of England this year before rates start to fall.

Bannister said: "Steadying mortgage rates and a generally more positive outlook for the economy are also contributing to more seller confidence, though there are likely to be more twists and turns to come." He said the market was still very price-sensitive and sellers should not damage their prospects by overpricing initially.

Capital Economics, the consultancy, estimates that prices could drop by 20 per cent from the 2021 peak, but only if mortgage rates stay at 5 per cent for at least another 18 months. Experts say it is more likely that rates will come down as the economy slows, leading to overall housing price falls of between 10 per cent and 12 per cent from the average recorded in 2021.

# Tourism tax is hurting UK, warns Harvey Nichols boss

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The "tourism tax" created by the abolition of tax-free shopping is having a wider impact on the British economy, the boss of Harvey Nichols has warned.

Manju Malhotra, chief executive of the department store based in Knightsbridge, central London, has joined Harrods and other luxury retailers in calling for the government to restore the scheme, which allowed visitors from non-European Union countries to recover the VAT on purchases and was scrapped in 2021.

However, Malhotra emphasised that it affected not only retailers such as Harvey Nichols that catered to large numbers of international visitors, but also "the entire ecosystem of hospitality, hotels and cultural destinations, which are integral to the overall UK economy".

She added: "For global businesses, this is feeding into decisions around investment into the UK relative to other markets. Tax-free shopping is a necessary fuel for the UK economy and is a significant lever in providing an attractive place for tourism and spending.

"We have seen that post-Covid and the change to the UK tax-free policy, that international visitors have already adapted their travel patterns, including reducing the overall time spent in London, diverting spending into Europe and even de-selecting the UK as a destination. We have also seen that UK residents are travelling to Europe, particularly for big-ticket items in order to take advantage of the VAT rebate."

Malhotra, 50, who took up her post in the midst of the pandemic, said there had been "a huge amount of campaigning by prominent UK business leaders to highlight this issue to the Treasury and the prime minister, but so far, disappointingly, there has been a lack of interest and engagement".

A Treasury spokeswoman said: "VAT-free shopping does not directly benefit Brits — it allows foreign tourists who buy items in the UK to claim back VAT as they return home."

Nigel Huddleston, the trade minister and a former tourism minister, said Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, would consider the issue before his autumn statement.

Harvey Nichols was founded in 1831 by Benjamin Harvey. Its present seven-floor, 220,000 sq ft property was built in 1880. Dickson Concepts, the company owned by Dickson Poon, 66, the Hong Kong businessman, bought Harvey Nichols in 1991.

# Paul Johnson

## Remote working is probably here to stay, and these are the reasons why



Opinions and prejudices are easy. We all have them, me as much as anyone. Take working from home. I rarely meet anyone without a strong opinion. Politicians enjoy pronouncing. But what do we actually know?

Luckily, the answer is quite a lot — and much of what we know is down to the remarkable work of Nick Bloom, a British professor of economics based at Stanford University in the heart of California's Silicon Valley. Having started working on the topic even before the pandemic struck, he is now the leading authority on what is happening, why and what its effects might be. So let's try to shed some light into a heated debate.

The first thing to say is that the majority of employees, about 60 per cent, are fully at their place of work. That's mostly because a lot of jobs can't be done from home. Working from home is not an option if you work in customer-facing roles in retail or hospitality, nor if you drive a cab or work in a factory or on a building site. It's an option for the generally more privileged group of us who work in offices.

Those who can, and do, work from home are much more likely to be graduates than those who cannot. There are exceptions, of course — call-centre workers on the one hand, doctors on the other — but the general point stands. It's another gap between the graduate and non-graduate classes. Of the remainder, about 10 per cent are now working almost entirely from home. They might be self-employed contractors or working in software engineering and similar professions.

The rest of us, about one in three, have some form of hybrid working, typically a couple of days at home and three in the office, or three and two, though other combinations are available. The amount of working from home, which peaked during lockdown, has settled at about a quarter of all working days, a fivefold increase on pre-Covid levels.

Is working from home here to stay? Almost certainly yes. The pandemic has changed our working patterns dramatically and permanently. In contrast, our shopping patterns (online versus in-person) are pretty much back to the pre-pandemic trend.

One reason why hybrid working is here to stay is that workers rather like it, with an average preference to be about half at home and half in the office. Bloom estimates that, on average, people value the ability to work from home two or three days a week about the same as they would an 8 per cent pay rise. With a shortage of workers and pressure on pay, it is not surprising that employers offer it. Given these preferences, it may be that concerns over people leaving the workforce will soon be allayed. For many, work looks more attractive now than it used to.

There can be direct benefits to the employer, too. In one carefully designed trial, flexibility to work from home reduced quit rates from jobs by a third — a big saving for the company concerned. If organised well, it can be good for productivity, in part because a fraction of the time saved on commuting goes into more time spent working.

Note, this is not about working from home every day. Most employees don't want that. And fully remote working often does lead to lower levels of productivity, less training and less creativity.

The trick is to organise a flexible workplace to get the benefits of on-site working (mentoring, networking, learning from one another) for part of the week and the benefits of working from home (focused concentration) for the other part. Many companies find that ensuring everyone is in the office for the same two or three days a week is an important part of making hybrid working effective. All that said, there may be some groups of workers where employers are willing to take the hit on productivity from them never coming to the office. If you can move some back-office staff to fully remote working, you may lose 20 per cent of productivity, but savings on office costs and from moving jobs to cheaper locations, either in the UK or more widely, may make that loss in productivity worthwhile.



Working from home is popular among those able to do so

One thing the research does suggest is that an effective performance management system based on outputs, not on whether someone is at their desk, is crucial. That might be one reason why ministers seem to worry so much about the civil service. Output can be genuinely hard to measure and performance management systems are not always the best.

There are knock-on effects of all this throughout the economy. People really are taking advantage of additional flexibilities to spend more time on the golf course or at the gym during the week — with some, but perhaps not all, making up the hours in the evenings and weekends. Then there is the drop in commuting on the rail network and the loss of season-ticket revenue. Behavioural change is partially stranding a huge physical asset. Are we going to settle for greater public subsidy or a reduction in services?

There is one other consequence that government really has to pay attention to. If it is the case, as Bloom estimates, that the flexibility associated with hybrid working is worth about 8 per cent in pay, what about those in the public sector workforce who cannot benefit from such flexibility? You can't teach or nurse or care for people remotely.

It seems more than likely that to continue to attract the teachers and nurses and care workers that we need, we will have to increase their pay a bit more than is happening in other comparable professions. And, of course, we are doing precisely the opposite.

*Paul Johnson is director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Follow him on @PJTheEconomist*

## Jamie Thompson

# Worries may be growing about a global financial crisis, but not at the Bank

**There's one easy way to gauge how concerned the Bank of England is over recent bank failures: count the words. The central bank's latest assessment of economic prospects was published this month, alongside its decision to implement a further rise in interest rates. The report included more than 26,000 words. Yet within it you have more chance of finding the word "budget" than "banking"; the phrase "bank failures" merits only five mentions; and "banking crisis" is nowhere to be seen.**

**This may be surprising. The past two months have brought the collapse of several banks in the United States and of Credit Suisse in Europe, as well as a flight of deposits from a number of other institutions. And while the Bank is playing down the economic consequences of recent banking system troubles, others are less sanguine. The fear is that developments over the past few months are only the start, providing an early indication of the extent to which rapidly rising interest rates are exposing banks' vulnerabilities.**

> **'The banking stress to date falls far short of that typically required to generate large economic effects'**

**Businesses, in particular, are becoming increasingly nervous. Based on responses to the latest *Global Risk Survey* from Oxford Economics, they think banking system strains and tightened credit supply now pose the greatest threats to the global economy.**

**Most strikingly, a full-blown financial crisis is no longer viewed as a remote possibility. On average, companies report that they see a one-in-three chance of disruption on the scale of the global financial crisis.**

**Such concerns are understandable. Significant banking stress often has resulted in a marked tightening of credit conditions and reduced bank lending. In such circumstances, businesses have been quick to pare back their investment plans. Recession and a protracted period of sub-par growth frequently have followed, as the global financial crisis amply demonstrated.**

**So far, though, the banking turmoil has been contained, especially when compared with previous periods in which there were a succession of bank failures. The fall in the share prices of American banks since early March is only about a third of that during the global financial crisis, for example. Declines in British and euro area bank stocks have been more limited still.**

**More generally, the banking stress to date falls far short of that typically required to generate large economic effects. Looking across periods of multiple bank failures over the past 150 years, big downturns have in the main required much larger drops in banks' share prices, at least twice the size of the declines experienced recently.**

**Problems in the global banking system could intensify, of course. It's not difficult to imagine further US bank failures, accompanied by more substantial falls in bank stocks. The tightening in credit conditions that is already under way could prove more substantial than anticipated, not only in the US.**

**One plausible scenario is a fallout comparable to the savings and loans crisis of the 1980s and early 1990s. The effects would be felt mostly in America, but all advanced economies would be affected. The dent to growth in Britain would be sufficient to undermine the Bank of England's latest economic projections.**

**Nevertheless, the likelihood of a severe global crisis shouldn't be overstated. Since the height of the pandemic, policymakers in Europe have taken further steps to bolster banking system resilience. Banks here appear to be far better placed than they were ahead of the global financial crisis. They boast more plentiful buffers to absorb losses, a point that the UK's central bank has been at pains to emphasise.**

**The ratesetters at the Bank of England have plenty of things to worry about. Another global financial crisis probably is not one of them.**

*Jamie Thompson is head of macro scenarios at Oxford Economics*

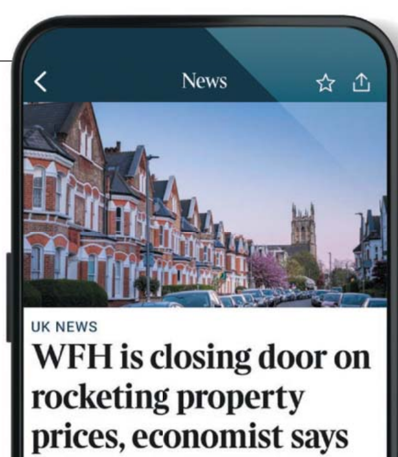
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# Brickworks is all fired up for an

Bosses believe a new plant in the Midlands is in a sweet spot for the construction sector, reports **Robert Lea**

As the locals like to say, they've been making bricks in this part of Leicestershire "since God was a boy". Or at least since the Romans brought over the art. But whatever the Romans did for us, they never created a single works capable of producing enough bricks to build nearly 20,000 homes a year. In fact, no one in Europe did. Until now.

Nestling in the countryside west of Leicester, where local historians reckon clay was being turned into building materials on a huge scale even before the Industrial Revolution, is Forterra's Desford brickworks.

The company has knocked down its old production line on the site of a former colliery works; in its stead, and officially opened last week, a new £95 million factory has begun increasing production to 500,000 bricks a day. By the end of next year, it will be at an annual production rate of 180 million.

The next biggest brickworks in Britain are a couple of 100 million-a-year factories, also in Leicestershire. Desford will overtake the biggest plant in Europe, too, of about 140 million capacity in western Russia (although the global crown is undisturbed, with a facility in Ontario, Canada, claiming an annual capacity of 300 million).

Yet Desford's timing looks off. In the planning stage for six years, the site has opened just as housebuilding — and therefore demand for bricks — is in a state of disarray.

After Liz Truss's and Kwasi Kwarteng's disastrous mini-budget in September, many builders stopped building. For brickmakers, this meant an immediate rapid deceleration in orders and demand stayed low for months as builders used up the stock they already had.

The impact on Forterra has been stark: a 32 per cent collapse in volumes in the first quarter of this year and a 24 per cent slump in revenue in the first four months. Profits for the year are expected to tumble by more than 20 per cent, back to levels not much better than the £50 million generated during the pandemic.

Stephen Harrison, a 20-year veteran with the business who led Forterra through its float in 2016, was the leading light of the Desford project — and he for one is certain that the stars are realigning. Housing starts are resuming, mortgage approvals are up and Forterra thinks that a better second half will mean the group's net fall in volume will be nearer 20 per cent by the end of the year.

"We saw a downturn amplified by housebuilder destocking and we believe that having gone through that we will see an amplified upturn," said Harrison, 55, who stepped down as chief executive this year and has just left the business after a handover period with Neil Ash, 51, his successor.

The government has a target of building 300,000 new homes a year. In Conservative mythology, the ambition harks back to the days of "never having it so good" during Harold Macmillan's housing programme in the 1950s. The goal has remained Tory policy since George Osborne was chancellor and Sir Keir Starmer has said Labour would keep the target.

However, housebuilding has not come near to meeting that ambition. Fewer than 200,000 homes were built last year and Britain does not have the brick manufacturing capacity to deliver on the 300,000 figure.

Brick production has been falling since 2006, when capacity peaked at 2.6 billion. The closures of brickworks during the global financial crisis and recession from 2008 meant that capacity fell to 2 billion by 2014.

At the start of this year capacity was 2.1 billion. Meeting the target of 300,000 new homes is estimated to need more than 2.8 billion bricks. The shortfall meant that last year the UK imported about 24 per cent of its bricks, 550 million, with transport costs making them materially more expensive.

Listen to the industry and one might think it was a case of blessed are the brickmakers for they have government targets to hit, a backlog of demand to satisfy and expensive imports to displace. But, as often with government policies, there is a central contradiction: brickmaking is up there with the least net zero-friendly of industries.

David Manley, a lifer in the business since joining as an apprentice, is Forterra's head of sustainability. He accepts that persuading people about the company's environmental credentials can be difficult.

"We dig big holes and burn a lot of gas," he said of the onsite quarrying to source clay that is heated up to 1,000C in kilns to produce the natural buff colour of Desford bricks.

So Desford has been not simply about creating Europe's largest brickworks but also its cleanest. Its carbon dioxide emissions will be down by 25 per cent from those previously; modern kilns are using 45 per cent less gas; and electricity usage is down 31 per cent, with improved power management systems, a redesigned production process, new machinery and solar panels on the roof.

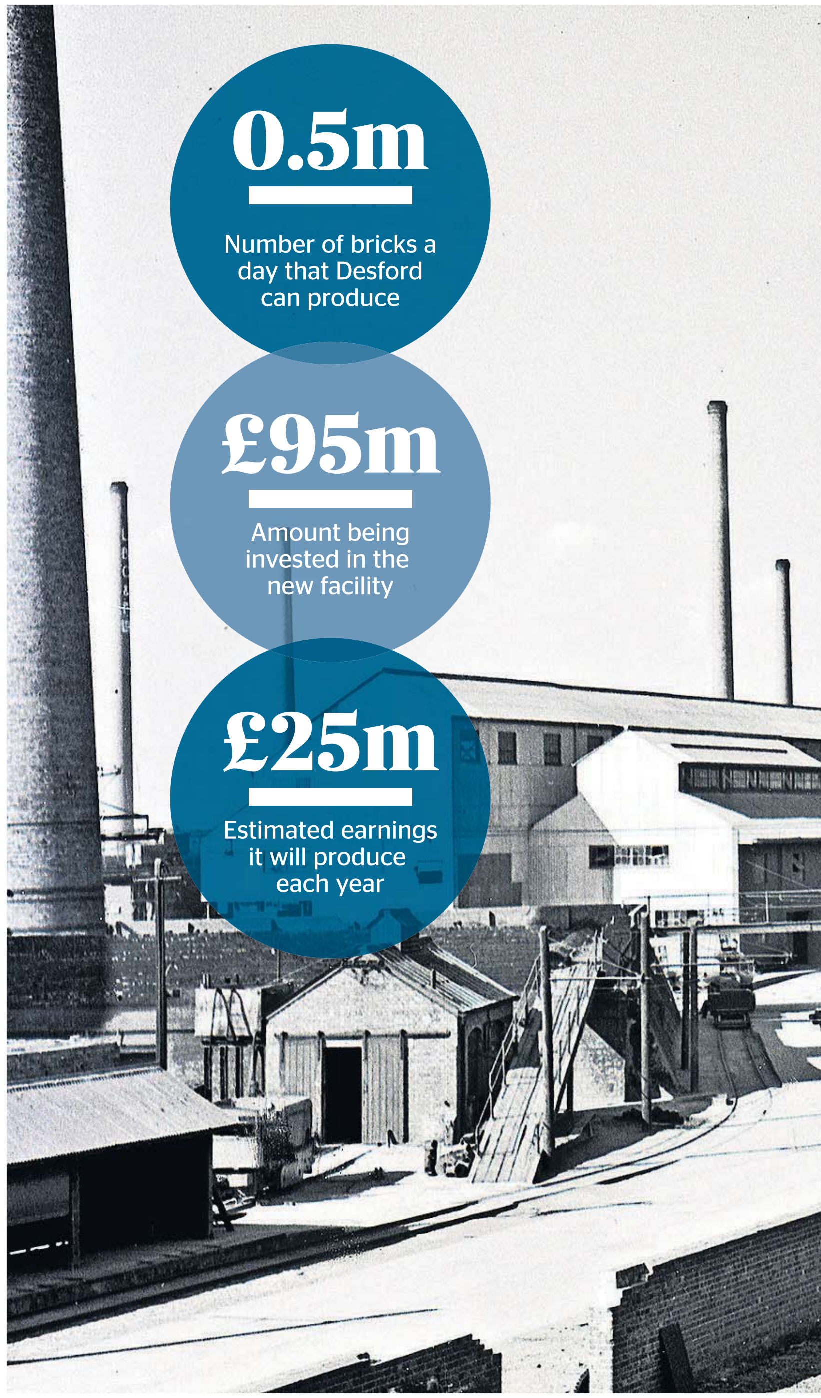
Harrison said that this industrial change was on a similar path to the one that took Britain from building Spitfires to launching Concorde in only two decades. The equivalent of a brickworks breaking the sound barrier is the creation of a carbon-neutral plant. Coming down the line is a hydrogen pipe into this part of the Midlands from the Humber to replace gas.

Forterra is also investing in a 50-megawatt solar power array in Nottinghamshire, and carbon capture technology is on its way to trap emissions from brickmaking. "A carbon-neutral plant will happen by the end of the decade," Harrison said.

Forterra expects the new Desford to generate earnings before interest, tax and other charges of £25 million a year from a highly automated plant in which the workforce has nearly halved to 90. With volumes increasing by more than half, productivity triples.

It has three decades of clay to draw on and is located ten minutes from the M1 motorway, putting it at the heart of the nation's distribution network. Pricing, to account for rising interest rates, energy and labour inflation, remains strong: about 70p per brick to the merchant trade, up from about 40p five years ago.

"Investing £95 million in something that delivers £25 million a year [of earnings] for 25 to 30 years is a no-brainer," Stephen Rawlinson, an independent analyst, said. "It may be coming on stream when things are at or near the bottom, but importantly it is not trying to find a market. The market already exists."




Traditionally brickworks, like this one in the 1950s in Bedfordshire, produced huge

## More office blocks being refurbished

Emma Powell

Refurbishments of office buildings in central London have risen to a record high, but the volume of new space being developed continues to lag pre-pandemic levels.

A biannual crane survey by Deloitte has found that 37 schemes overhauling existing offices were started over the half-year to the end of March, the highest number since the accountancy group started tracking activity in 2005. About 3.2 million sq ft of space is set to be improved.

The increase has been driven by the need to reach new minimum energy-efficiency standards by the end of the decade, as well as the change in working practices after the pandemic. Employers not only are trying to tempt workers to return to the office, but also hope to attract new talent by occupying better-quality spaces.

However, supply chain inflation, a higher cost of financing and labour shortages, together with uncertainty over the scale of future demand, have weighed on the volume of new office building projects across London.

While the number of schemes rose to 13, or 1.3 million sq ft of space, compared with the previous six months, the volume of space to be constructed continued to lag the pre-Covid average since 2015 of 1.85 million sq ft.

Twenty-two fresh construction and refurbishment schemes covering 3.6 million sq ft, previously expected to be completed over the latest six months, have been pushed to later in the year by the supply chain disruption and higher costs.

**37**

**Revamps in London over six months**
Source: Deloitte crane survey

Sophie Allan, director in real assets advisory at Deloitte, said: "While construction levels remain high, developers are acutely aware of elevated construction costs, which remains the biggest challenge, with both labour and material seen as major drivers."

There also has been a divergence in construction activity across the capital. New starts in London's West End were up for the second consecutive half-year period, with the volume of space to be delivered rising to 1.3 million sq ft. However, the City has dropped to just under 600,000 sq ft and has suffered a steady decline in activity over the past few survey periods.

Margaret Doyle, chief insights officer for financial services and real estate at Deloitte, said: "Your classic City development is big, it's new, it has big floor plates.

"In a world where people are feeling cautious because of all the uncertainty, the 'go or no go' decisions are going to hit the City more."

In the West End, a smaller average building size, which reduces the risk for developers, and greater existing leisure and hospitality amenities had made the area more appealing to employers needing "to earn the commute" in a tight labour market, Doyle said.

## Baker Hughes can see fertile ground in hydrogen producer

**Emily Gosden** Energy Editor

A London-listed minnow in hydrogen production has secured investment from a powerhouse American oil services group amid plans for a strategic shift to making green fertiliser.

Atome Energy, valued at about £35 million, said that Baker Hughes, which has a market capitalisation of more than $28 billion, was paying £2.4 million for new shares to give it a 6.6 per cent stake. The American company also will have the right of first offer to supply equipment needed by Atome.

Atome produces "green" hydrogen by using renewable electricity to power the electrolysis of water, splitting it into hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen can be processed to make ammonia, a key ingredient in the manufacture of fertilisers.

The company has been quoted on Aim, London's junior stock market, since December 2021, when it was spun out of President Energy, an oil and gas group that has since rebranded as Molecular Energies. Molecular owns just over 25 per cent of the shares, while almost 23 per cent belong to Peter Levine, 69, Atome's chairman and Molecular Energies' biggest shareholder. Its shares stood at 94p last week, down from a peak of 136½p a year ago but up on the 83p level at the float.

Atome Energy also announced that its proposed first project at Villeta in Paraguay would not only would produce green hydrogen and ammonia but also would process that into fertiliser, rather than selling ammonia to third-party developers.

The project, 20 miles from Asuncion, Paraguay's capital, will be powered primarily by the Itaipu hydroelectric dam, the second biggest in the world. The company had been aiming for a final investment decision on the project by the end of the second quarter, but it is now expected later in the year.

# industry recovery

ALAMY/FTI CONSULTING LLP



carbon emissions, but Forterra's plant, top right, in Desford, near Leicester, has been built to be one of the greenest in Europe

# Collapse in demand for 'off-plan' homes hits housebuilding

**David Byers** Deputy Property Editor

The proportion of new homes being sold "off-plan" before they are built is falling rapidly as demand wanes among landlords hit by higher taxes and priced-out first-time buyers.

An analysis by Hamptons, the estate agency, shows 34 per cent of new homes in England and Wales were sold off-plan last year, down from a peak of 46 per cent in 2016 and the lowest level since 2013.

The big driver of the decline is a collapse in demand from landlords, with only 21 per cent of off-plan purchases made by buy-to-let investors, compared with 70 per cent in 2015. That was the year before George Osborne, as chancellor, introduced a series of tax clampdowns, including the 3 per cent stamp duty surcharge.

The research shows the scale of the challenge facing developers, which are struggling to sell units in a slower market, leading some to reduce building targets.

A sustained decline in construction would be a sensitive political issue as Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, promises to restore the target, which the government has abandoned, of building 300,000 homes a year to help struggling aspiring buyers. Rishi Sunak is believed to be considering pleas by developers to restart the recently closed Help to Buy scheme, which lent government money to buyers to boost their equity — while also artificially driving up the prices of newly built homes.

"Slowing rates of price growth have reduced the incentive for some buyers to get in early," David Fell, lead analyst at Hamptons, said. "A decade ago, investors buying well in advance of completion often saw the value of their new home rise by 20 per cent to 40 per cent between exchange and completion. But as price growth has slowed, buyers in general have become less willing to commit to purchases years in advance of completion.

"The continued slowdown in the number of new homes sold off-plan, coupled with the end of Help to Buy, is hitting most housebuilders' bottom lines. Slowing sales rates mean that some developers are slowing down the pace of work in order to reduce their risk. Without a relaunch of Help to Buy or its replacement with a similar scheme, in the short term it's likely to mean far fewer homes will be built in 2023 than there have been over the last couple of years."

The figures also show that, for the first time, terraced homes are more likely to sell off-plan than flats, as the post-pandemic demand for homes with outside space continues to transform the property market and reduce the return that investors get from flats.



**Developers are struggling to sell units, with some reducing building targets**

In 2016, 66 per cent of flats were sold off-plan, falling to 44 per cent last year. The number of terraced houses has risen in this time from 44 per cent to 46 per cent.

Broken down by region, the share of new homes of all types sold before being completed last year was highest in the northwest of England, at 45 per cent, which was the same figure as 2016. However, there was a significant decline in London — from 71 per cent to 42 per cent — in that period because of poor yield prospects for investors hobbled by tax clampdowns and higher interest rates, and because first-time buyers were priced out.

"With higher interest rates, many investors will be holding off until yields improve," Neal Hudson, a property market analyst, said.

# New science campus joins Stevenage cluster

**Alex Ralph**

Plans for a £900 million life sciences campus in Stevenage, creating one of Europe's largest clusters, have been submitted to the local authority.

UBS Asset Management and Reef Group, a development partner, announced a joint venture last year to acquire and develop land at a GSK research site in Hertfordshire.

The venture is seeking approval from Stevenage borough council to create an estimated 1.6 million sq ft of laboratory, manufacturing and office facilities, providing space for up to 5,000 "highly skilled" new jobs.

The campus will feature a central green and consist of 15 new buildings connected by publicly accessible and landscaped open spaces complete with restaurants, cafés and leisure facilities for employees.

The master plan has been designed to allow life science businesses to grow and scale up over time and to create an "ecosystem of collaboration and innovation".

The site already hosts one of GSK's two main global research and development facilities as well as the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, a biotechnology hub, and the Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst.

UBS and Reef are also already redeveloping The Forum shopping centre in central Stevenage to create more than 400,000 sq ft of new lab space there, a project that received planning committee approval in February.

When the venture was first announced in July, GSK said the site had the potential to become Britain's second-largest sector cluster, after Cambridge, for specialist commercial life sciences, excluding academia and the NHS.

Life sciences have been identified by the government as one of the economy's five key growth sectors, but industry leaders have complained of a shortage of laboratory space in the country.

**The site could become Britain's second largest life sciences complex**



Tony Wood, chief scientific officer at GSK, said that the new campus would add "much-needed laboratory space and facilities for cutting-edge new biotech companies to locate within the heart of the Golden Triangle of London, Oxford and Cambridge — further strengthening the UK life science ecosystem".

Piers Slater, joint chief executive at Reef Group, said: "We have designed the space to bring science and nature together, while also making science more open and accessible to the public."

Construction of the new campus is due to begin early next year and, subject to planning permission, parts of it will open for business in 2025.

Sally Ann Forsyth, the chief executive officer of Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst, said: "The submission of planning permission marks a significant milestone in the development of the campus.

"This campus is a prized national asset and, thanks to strong collaboration locally, I am confident building will commence in the next 12 months to keep pace with demand."

AEGON

Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the thirtieth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Qualifying Policyholders of Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited will be held at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE on 14 June 2023 at 1:45 p.m. for the following purposes:

1. To consider the Report on the activities of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2022.
2. To approve the aggregate ordinary remuneration to be made available to the Directors of the Company.
3. To reappoint Christopher Campbell (retiring by rotation as a Director of the Company).

Any Qualifying Policyholder who is entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Qualifying Policyholder) as his proxy to attend and vote instead of him. A proxy is entitled to vote but is not entitled to speak except to demand or join in demanding a poll. Proxy forms, which can be obtained from the Secretary, must be deposited at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE before 9 am on 13 June 2023.

Any Qualifying Policyholder whose policy, as at the commencement of the Meeting, is in force, and has been at least one year in force, is entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting.

"Qualifying Policyholders" for the purposes of this Notice has the meaning set out in the Trust Deed executed by the Company on 31 December 1993 and extends to:

(a) any person who was a member of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society and whose policy was transferred to Scottish Equitable plc; and

(b) any person who has a with profits policy with Scottish Equitable plc where the policy has been linked to the With Profits Sub-Fund for a continuous period of at least one year as at the commencement of the Meeting.

Any queries in respect of the qualification of policyholders to attend and vote at the Meeting should be addressed to the Secretary.

By Order of the Board
James K MacKenzie
Secretary

Aegon
Lochside Crescent
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9SE

Pensions | Investments | Protection

# Podcast makers fine-tune the audio business model

THE TIMES ENTERPRISE NETWORK PODCASTS

Podcasts were a craze during lockdowns and their money-making potential endures, writes **Richard Tyler**

'There's something about asking clever people really simple questions that can be very enlightening," Jimmy McLoughlin, a former government adviser, said of the perks of hosting *Jobs of the Future*, his weekly business podcast. "When we asked the then chancellor of the exchequer, Rishi Sunak, to define his role, he split it in two: the fiscal, technical, finance side; and driving economic growth and living standards. Even though I've been in politics myself for 15 years, it made me look at it in an entirely new way."

It seems that much of the move from politics to podcasting has been an education for McLoughlin, but more than 100 episodes and a six-figure turnover later, it is one that has paid off. Having advised Theresa May on business when she was prime minister, he is one of a rising number of established professionals building a second career through a medium that is at the heart of the on-demand audio boom predicted to be worth $130 billion by 2030, according to Grand View Research.

The market has been driven by a low-cost barrier to entry, hefty investment from Spotify, the podcast platform powerhouse, and the pandemic, during which bite-sized audio shows were the soundtrack to our new daily routines. McLoughlin was one of those who first became aware of the power of the platform during the initial lockdown. He spent £2,000 to have a pilot series professionally edited.

His guests have included Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, and the number of listeners has risen from 1,000 to 30,000 per episode. "Healthy [figures]," McLoughlin, 36, said. "By the second series I needed to make money, but I didn't want to charge a subscription fee because the ethos of why we started was to tackle unemployment," he said. He secured sponsorship with Octopus, the energy group.

"Not that it was easy," he said. "At first there was this sense of people not taking it seriously. I kept hearing the phrase 'we don't have podcast budgets', but when I reframed the opportunity as a recruitment vehicle, that made a big difference. We've had Kathryn Parsons from Decoded [the technology training firm] on and she hired directly as a result."

Roger Bolton, the BBC broadcaster, is hoping that an established media profile will help to expand *Beeb Watch*, his new podcast. He plans to leverage loyalty from the 900,000-strong audience of *Feedback*, his right-to-reply programme on Radio 4. Indeed, the strong reaction to his departure after a 23-year tenure was the impetus to continue the conversation in a fresh format. Like McLoughlin, his weekly show has been conceived with a clear and timely purpose: to involve the public in the debate about the future of the BBC through interviews with top names, including Tony Hall, the former director-general, and David Dimbleby and Stephen Fry, the broadcasters.

Many of the highest-ranking business podcasts are several years old, a success rooted in steady organic growth, largely through word of mouth when the market was less busy. *Conversations of Inspiration*, a podcast started by Holly Tucker, founder of the small business marketplace Not on the High Street, is a case in point. It has a total of 3.6 million downloads. The focus on human stories behind successful entrepreneurs builds on her career championing small business.

Longevity in the fast-evolving market now flooded with comparable offerings was, she said, rooted in the consistently high quality of guests. As such, there are no plans to deviate from the intimacy of the audio focus or formula. Guests including Jo Malone, Sir John Timpson and Lord Bilimoria have discussed in depth the trials and highlights of running their own businesses in an attempt to inspire those listening.

"At the start, we were having to educate people on how to actually listen to a podcast because the market had really been driven by younger people only, but the demographic has broadened now," Tucker, 46, said.

Her predominantly female audience is aged 30 to 60. "They're at the busiest period of their lives, but a podcast fits around their day. I've walked the walk and risked it all in business, so connecting with other entrepreneurs over this medium has been profound."



Jimmy McLoughlin, host of Jobs of the


Holly Tucker says a podcast fits around her listeners' day



LUCY YOUNG FOR THE TIMES




Future and a former No 10 adviser, is one of a growing number of professionals forging a second career in the audio boom

## Audiences glimpse the future

**Case study**

Usually, when Karl Simons, a health and safety expert, asks a room full of civil infrastructure leaders if they use artificial intelligence, hands stay down (Richard Tyler writes).

Furthermore, only one in fifteen is likely to have any understanding of the technology and its potential.

For the co-founder of FYLD, a London-based technology start-up, this oversight was the impetus for his new podcast, *Future Talk*, exploring how digital innovation can be harnessed by those on the front line of safety-critical work in construction, utilities and transport.

"Artificial intelligence may be at the forefront of many conversations now, but the reality is that cutting-edge technology isn't getting into these traditional, slow-moving industries," Simons said.

"They don't get the technology and there's too much stigma around adoption, specifically caution about working with start-ups. The aim is to unpack the challenges for those grappling with the pace of change and to encourage leadership to take calculated risks with innovation."

Each episode of *Future Talk* focuses on an industry and specific safety measures. Guests have included Jon Loveday, a director of infrastructure at the Cabinet Office, and they are interviewed in person by Simons at Kennington Film Studios in London, a more personable experience than Zoom or phone calls.

"The feedback has been very positive. People lead busy lives and don't always have time for longer reads, whereas the podcast fits into their day."

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**thetimes.co.uk/ten**

# Rule of three can make the most of presentations

**Caroline Plumb**



There is a saying in start-ups that first-time founders focus on product but second-time founders focus on distribution. In essence, this means that you can have the perfect idea, but it is pretty pointless if you cannot get it to the people who need it: your customers.

The same concept applies to the crucial skill of business presentations. Talking to your internal teams is as important as reaching your external audience, but so few business leaders take the time to think about landing messages that stick with their colleagues. They focus on goals and analysis, but fail to distil the information into ideas that will get through to their audience. They forget about the distribution.

Most people reading this column will have memories of sitting through a business presentation from their boss. Typically on these occasions, a chief executive — perhaps new to the job or resetting at the start of the financial year — will reflect on recent performance, lay out plans for the future and finish with some words of encouragement for the hard work that lies ahead. If the company is doing well and the leader is good at communicating, you come away from the meeting feeling good about your prospects and excited to get back to work. And then what? Then you forget everything that has just been said.

> If you appeal only to people's rationality, you won't get an emotional response

For most people, presentation is a learnt skill. I was very shy at school and had a blushing problem, which meant that when I started speaking I would feel myself go pink and become embarrassed. I have spent time over the years trying to improve my public speaking and it is like anything: you cannot expect to be good at it if you do not put in the hours. I also realised that a good foundation covers up blushing.

I have always believed that delivery is important, but, as someone prone to getting excited and talking too quickly, I like to take comfort in the thought that authenticity is even more so. It certainly does not have to be a rousing "I have a dream" speech. You do get really articulate leaders who are brilliant at delivery, but one thing I have learnt is that people respond if you try to bring the best version of you.

Business is meant to be very logical, but it is OK to be a bit more emotional about it. One of the challenges with more technical sectors such as accounting is that you have a lot of people who are very detail-oriented and like to get into all the nuances. This is incredibly important day-to-day, but there has to be a way of distilling it into a few simpler concepts.

People have a lot of ideas about what a charismatic leader looks like, but the truth is that they come in many shapes and sizes. It does not really matter if you hesitate or speak too fast as long as you have put some thought into content and can express yourself. It is relatively comfortable for business leaders to think about the strategy: that is what you live every day. It is far harder to remember to focus on the WITFM — what's in it for me? — and work out how people are likely to respond to that strategy and communicate in a way that will create a positive response.

I have met lots of chief executives who dismiss storytelling as style over substance and who therefore do not put the time into getting it right, but in any sales process you buy with your heart and justify with your head. If you appeal only to people's rationality, you will never get an emotional response, and that is what you need to change behaviour.

A mental model that has worked for me is that it is really hard for people to remember more than three things. Therefore you have to ask: what are the three points you actually want to stick and how do you make them memorable? One way to do that is to illustrate your three points with a story that brings them to life.

I found a brilliant story by Matthew Syed, who writes a column for The Sunday Times, about world-class ice skaters falling over more than beginners. The message is that if you want to be world class, you are going to have to jump higher and try more things, but accept that you are going to fall more and get up more often. I have used that story to illustrate Gravita's approach to taking the right level of risk. It sounds mundane, but all you then need to say is 'ice skating' and people remember it.

The distillation of ideas is actually very hard to do because the temptation is to keep adding more detail. With information overload, you get a one-off hit for the presentation, but then teams go back to work and do not remember it. At Freshminds and Fluidly, the two start-ups I founded, we worked on a simple framework that helped to strip sometimes complex ideas down to something that would genuinely cut through. We would ask: "What? So what? Now what?" Extending the basic "What?" question helps you to understand how you can make an idea relevant to a wide audience. It helps you to move from an obsession with product to a focus on distribution.

*Caroline Plumb is a serial entrepreneur and chief executive of Gravita, a tax, accountancy and advisory firm*

# Business Equity prices

## Automobiles & parts

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,868.48 | Aston Martin Lag | 267⅜ | + 63 | ... | -1.6 |

## Banking & finance

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4,242.01 | **Abrdn** | 211⅞ | + 4½ | ... | 4.6 |
| 6,819.78 | **Admiral**‡ | 2249 | - 5 | ... | 11.4 |
| 11.27 | ADVFN♦ | 24½ | ... | ... | 4.2 |
| 1,311.27 | AJ Bell | 318⅛ | + ⅜ | ... | 29.8 |
| 53,460.98 | Aon Corpn | 26174¾ | - 853⅞ | ... | 63.8 |
| 79.19 | Appreciate Group♦ | 42⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | 18.3 |
| 139.33 | Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡ | 927½ | - 25 | ... | 20.5 |
| 3.51 | Argo Group♦ | 9 | ... | ... | 4.1 |
| 1,667.81 | Ashmore | 234 | - 2¾ | ... | 7.9 |
| 38,531.96 | Aus New Z | 1282⅞ | - 18⅛ | ... | 10.0 |
| 11,432.77 | **Aviva** | 413½ | + ¾ | ... | 54.4 |
| 45,320.71 | Banco Santander | 278½ | + 2 | ... | 6.6 |
| 1,520.06 | Bank of Georgia | 3270 | - 55 | ... | 10.1 |
| 24,789.31 | **Barclays** | 159⅜ | + 5½ | ... | 3.8 |
| 7.74 | Blue Star Capital♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | 3.1 |
| 120.09 | BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦ | 321 | + 9 | ... | 8.8 |
| 7.49 | Braveheart Inv♦ | 11¾ | - 1½ | ... | 0.3 |
| 1,564.20 | Brewin Dolphin | 515 | + 1 | ... | 28.1 |
| 1,797.50 | Bridgepoint‡ | 220¾ | - 4 | ... | 13.8 |
| 20.98 | Cenkos Secs♦ | 37 | - 1 | ... | 7.5 |
| 430.13 | Chesnara‡ | 286 | + 10½ | ... | 15.8 |
| 11.94 | City of Lon Gp♦ | 10 | - 14 | ... | -0.6 |
| 228.06 | City Lon Inv Gp | 450 | + 8 | ... | 10.5 |
| 1,399.96 | Close Bros | 931 | + 29½ | ... | 6.9 |
| 503.67 | CMC Markets | 180 | - ⅛ | ... | 5.5 |
| 10,631.40 | Commerzbk | 848⅞ | - 20 | ... | 43.5 |
| 17,305.71 | Deutsche Bk | 848⅛ | + 14⅛ | ... | 9.9 |
| 2,131.68 | Direct Line Ins | 162½ | + 2 | ... | 6.7 |
| 102.54 | Downing ONE VCT | 57 | ... | ... | 7.7 |
| 6.17 | Drumz♦ | 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| 377.89 | EFG-Hermes Hldg | 64⅝ | - 7⅝ | ... | 4.1 |
| 47.06 | EPE Special Opps♦ | 157½ | - 1 | ... | 8.8 |
| 399.70 | FBD | 1123⅛ | ... | ... | 4.9 |
| 7.98 | Fiske♦ | 67½ | ... | ... | 12.0 |
| 87.30 | Frenkel Topping♦ | 68½ | ... | ... | 39.8 |
| 374.30 | Georgia Capital | 849 | + 18 | ... | 2.3 |
| 296.62 | Gresham House♦‡ | 775 | - 20 | ... | 31.1 |
| 185.05 | H&T Group♦‡ | 422 | - 16 | ... | 13.5 |
| 65.89 | Hansard Global | 47⅞ | ... | ... | 16.5 |
| 3,850.52 | **Hargreaves Lansdown** | 811¾ | + 7¾ | ... | 14.4 |
| 132.97 | Helios Under♦ | 172½ | + 12½ | ... | ... |
| 121,986.33 | **HSBC**‡ | 610¾ | + 11 | ... | 13.3 |
| 2,887.14 | IG Group | 703½ | - 3 | ... | 7.1 |
| 1,089.95 | Impax♦ | 822 | - 13 | ... | 27.1 |
| 3,850.45 | Intermed Capital | 1325 | + 37½ | ... | 7.6 |
| 238.60 | IPF | 106½ | + 1 | ... | 5.9 |
| 2,691.03 | International Public P'ship‡ | 140¾ | - 3⅛ | ... | 18.1 |
| 2,869.29 | Investec | 439 | + 2¼ | ... | 11.0 |
| 15.75 | Investment Co | 330 | ... | ... | 11.8 |
| 584.74 | IP Group | 56⅜ | + 3 | ... | 2.1 |
| 69.33 | Jarvis Securities♦‡ | 155 | - 5 | ... | 11.1 |
| 653.43 | Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡ | 119⅞ | - 3 | ... | 4.4 |
| 971.19 | Just Group | 93½ | + 3⅝ | ... | ... |
| 1,544.58 | Lancashire Holdings‡ | 633 | + 16½ | ... | ... |
| 14,049.31 | **Legal & Gen**‡ | 235⅛ | + 4⅜ | ... | 7.2 |
| 1,438.66 | Liberty Group | 502⅝ | -50034⅜ | ... | ... |
| 529.87 | Liontrust | 816 | + 40½ | ... | 10.2 |
| 67.80 | Livermore Invs♦ | 41 | ... | ... | 2.6 |
| 30,658.91 | **Lloyds Banking Group**‡ | 46⅝ | + 1⅛ | ... | 6.4 |
| 18.73 | LMS Capital | 23⅛ | + ⅝ | ... | 10.0 |
| 46,604.56 | **Lond Stk Ex Gp**‡ | 8436 | - 118 | ... | 86.2 |
| 4,744.59 | **M&G** | 201 | + 1¾ | ... | 62.8 |
| 2,615.17 | Man‡ | 217⅞ | + 6 | ... | 8.7 |
| 28.19 | Manx Fin♦ | 24½ | - ½ | ... | 12.4 |
| 1.45 | Marechale Cap♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | 0.7 |
| 71,577.96 | Marsh McLn | 14468¼ | - 102 | ... | 30.1 |
| 330.46 | Mattioli Woods♦ | 640 | + 5 | ... | ... |
| 15.35 | Metal Tiger♦ | 9 | + 1 | ... | 3.5 |
| 179.52 | Metro Bank | 104 | + 9 | ... | -0.7 |
| 45,022.68 | Nat Aust Bk | 1434⅜ | + 23 | ... | 14.2 |
| 25,443.04 | **NatWest** | 268⅜ | + 7 | ... | 10.5 |
| 367.41 | Numis♦‡ | 334 | - 5½ | ... | 6.8 |
| 2,168.79 | Onesavings Bank | 509½ | + 13 | ... | 6.7 |
| 306.23 | PayPoint | 422 | - 5½ | ... | 13.2 |
| 3.17 | PCF Group♦ | ⅞ | + ¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 5,760.91 | **Phoenix** | 575¾ | + ⅜ | ... | -6.6 |
| 571.19 | Provident | 225 | + 10 | ... | 4.2 |
| 32,432.78 | **Prudential** | 1178 | + 22 | ... | 19.1 |
| 14.96 | Quantum Blockchain♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -8.2 |
| 1,186.47 | Quilter‡ | 84½ | - ⅜ | ... | 60.3 |
| 224.74 | Randall & Quilter♦ | 60 | - ½ | ... | 89.4 |
| 1,247.10 | Rathbone Grp | 1966 | + 52 | ... | 15.2 |
| 5.43 | RiverFort Global Opps♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | 2.0 |
| 52.09 | Rockwood Strategic | 2050 | + 30 | ... | 3.0 |
| 303.77 | S & U | 2500 | + 60 | ... | 11.8 |
| 4.67 | Sancus Lending Grp♦ | ¾ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 214.23 | Schroder REIT | 43¾ | ... | ... | 4.6 |
| 7,551.08 | **Schroders** | 468⅜ | - ⅜ | ... | 2.1 |
| 6,276.71 | **St James Place**‡ | 1145 | + 7 | ... | 21.8 |
| 17,895.91 | **Stand Chart** | 634 | + 17¾ | ... | 14.2 |
| 4.37 | Starvest♦ | 7½ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 14.55 | STM Group♦ | 24½ | ... | ... | 9.4 |
| 23,474.59 | Sun Life Can | 4000¾ | + 133⅞ | ... | 10.2 |
| 43.43 | Tavistock Inv♦ | 7¾ | ... | ... | 1.2 |
| 1,369.29 | TBC Bank Group‡ | 2490 | + 155 | ... | 7.2 |
| 16.51 | Tern♦ | 4¼ | ... | ... | 3.2 |
| 27.11 | Time Finance♦ | 29¼ | + ½ | ... | 17.8 |
| 28.24 | Volvere♦ | 1200 | ... | ... | ... |
| 13.68 | WH Ireland♦ | 21 | + ½ | ... | 11.8 |
| 11.07 | Walker Crips Grp | 26 | ... | ... | 74.2 |
| 120,221.99 | Wells Fargo | 3204 | + 189¾ | ... | 8.7 |
| 39,873.82 | Westpac | 1136¼ | + 5¼ | ... | 15.3 |
| 9.85 | Worsley Investors Ltd | 29⅛ | - ¼ | ... | 91.2 |
| 57,405.68 | Zurich Fincl | 38153⅜ | + 80⅛ | ... | 14.9 |

## Construction & property

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 62.87 | Alumasc♦ | 174 | + 12½ | ... | 8.8 |
| 18.37 | Aseana Props | 9¼ | ... | ... | -4.6 |
| 1,530.72 | Assura | 51⅝ | + 1 | ... | 10.3 |
| 6.06 | Aukett Swanke♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 2,198.09 | Balfour Beatty‡ | 387¾ | - 3⅜ | ... | 18.3 |
| 4,902.99 | **Barratt Devs** | 499⅛ | - 1⅛ | ... | 7.8 |
| 3,017.53 | Bellway | 2466 | + 22 | ... | 7.4 |
| 4,554.86 | **Berkeley** | 4234 | - 119 | ... | 11.0 |
| 2,147.06 | Big Yellow Group | 1165 | + 6 | ... | 7.6 |
| 54.32 | Billington Hldgs♦ | 420 | - 20 | ... | 34.1 |
| 325.07 | Boot (Henry)‡ | 243 | + 5 | ... | 12.9 |
| 3,302.26 | **Br Land** | 356⅛ | - 14⅞ | ... | 48.7 |
| 18.85 | Caledonian Tst♦ | 160 | + 10 | ... | 31.9 |
| 94.07 | Cap & Regnl‡ | 55½ | - 1⅜ | ... | -0.4 |
| 25.10 | Cardiff Prop | 2370 | ... | ... | 25.7 |
| 40.31 | Carecapital♦ | 7½ | + 1 | ... | -0.8 |
| 67.70 | Clarke T‡ | 153½ | + 3¼ | ... | 11.0 |
| 1,148.53 | Countryside Partner | 229¾ | + 11 | ... | 16.7 |
| 0.53 | Craven House♦ | 13⅝ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 29,526.78 | **CRH** | 4013 | + 76 | ... | 16.6 |
| 2,470.40 | Derwent London‡ | 2200 | + 30 | ... | 9.8 |
| 34.38 | Dolphin Capital♦ | 3¾ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 31.05 | First Prop♦ | 28 | ... | ... | ... |
| 3.84 | Fletcher King♦ | 37½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 113.85 | Foxtons Group‡ | 37¾ | - 1¾ | ... | ... |
| 190.54 | Galliford Try | 178⅜ | - 1 | ... | 39.6 |
| 813.54 | Genuit Group‡ | 326½ | + 30½ | ... | 19.7 |
| 264.87 | Gleeson (MJ) | 454 | + 10 | ... | 7.1 |
| 2,075.71 | Grafton | 868 | + 20⅜ | ... | 10.0 |
| 1,902.77 | Grainger | 256½ | + 9 | ... | 15.9 |
| 1,274.42 | Great Portland | 502 | + 13½ | ... | -6.2 |
| 1,249.64 | Hammerson | 25 | - ¼ | ... | -2.6 |
| 403.85 | Harworth Gp‡ | 125 | + 5 | ... | 4.3 |
| 10.77 | Heath (Samuel)♦ | 425 | ... | ... | 8.8 |
| 353.41 | Helical PLC | 286½ | + 11 | ... | 6.9 |
| 45.04 | Highcroft Invs‡ | 865 | ... | ... | 3.7 |
| 656.04 | Ibstock | 167 | + 1⅞ | ... | 21.6 |
| 917.51 | James Halstead♦‡ | 212 | - 3 | ... | 22.5 |
| 513.80 | Keller | 706 | + 71 | ... | 8.2 |
| 10,207.06 | Kingspan Group | 5611⅜ | + 91 | ... | 22.0 |
| 4,658.34 | **Land Sec** | 628⅛ | + 13¾ | ... | ... |
| 262.50 | Life Science Reit | 75 | + 4 | ... | ... |
| 11.09 | Lon & Assoc | 13 | - 1 | ... | -1.7 |
| 1,823.41 | Londonmetric Property | 185½ | - 1 | ... | 3.9 |
| 36.79 | Macau Prop Op | 59½ | - ¼ | ... | -7.7 |
| 756.88 | Marshalls | 299⅛ | + 9⅜ | ... | 10.9 |
| 87.63 | Michelmersh♦ | 92 | - ½ | ... | 14.6 |
| 878.86 | Morgan Sindall | 1856 | + 40 | ... | 9.0 |
| 432.79 | Mountview | 11100 | - 100 | ... | 13.8 |
| 262.32 | NewRiver REIT | 84½ | + 1⅝ | ... | -2.9 |
| 104.45 | Palace Capital | 240 | + 4 | ... | 11.4 |
| 52.42 | Panther Securities♦ | 300 | ... | ... | 2.7 |
| 4,174.77 | **Persimmon** | 1307 | - 30½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 4.10 | Pires Investments♦ | 2 | ... | ... | -4.5 |
| 2.06 | Plaza Cent | 30 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1,411.34 | Primary Health Properties‡ | 105½ | + 1⅜ | ... | 10.7 |
| 52.66 | Real Estate Invs♦ | 30½ | ... | ... | 3.9 |
| 1,786.16 | Redrow | 540 | + 12 | ... | 6.7 |
| 2,067.79 | Safestore | 948½ | + 18½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 1,325.73 | Savills‡ | 917½ | - 17 | ... | 9.1 |
| 7.27 | Secure Property♦ | 5⅝ | ... | ... | 14.8 |
| 9,888.47 | **Segro** | 808 | + 4 | ... | 2.3 |
| 487.39 | SIG | 41¼ | - 1¾ | ... | ... |
| 420.44 | SigmaRoc♦ | 60½ | - 1½ | ... | ... |
| 935.40 | Sirius Real Estate | 79½ | + 1⅛ | ... | 6.2 |
| 66.54 | Smart (J)‡ | 164½ | ... | ... | 4.5 |
| 81.58 | Steppe Cement♦ | 37¼ | + ¼ | ... | 8.5 |
| 4,377.90 | **Taylor Wimpey** | 123⅞ | - ⅝ | ... | 8.1 |
| 71.23 | Town Centre‡ | 147 | ... | ... | 5.8 |
| 1,957.21 | Travis Perkins | 921 | - 6½ | ... | 8.9 |
| 2,689.24 | Tritax Big Box Reit‡ | 143⅞ | - 1¾ | ... | 2.6 |
| 508.29 | Tritax Eurobox | 63 | - 2¾ | ... | ... |
| 521.13 | Tyman‡ | 265½ | + 10 | ... | 10.4 |
| 3,653.13 | **Unite**‡ | 912½ | + ½ | ... | 10.6 |
| 2,857.38 | Vistry Group‡ | 826½ | + 39½ | ... | 7.2 |
| 446.95 | Warehouse REIT | 105⅛ | + 2⅜ | ... | 2.4 |
| 914.88 | Workspace Grp | 477⅜ | + 13 | ... | -7.0 |
| 17.93 | Wynnstay Props♦ | 665 | + 35 | ... | 4.8 |

## Consumer goods

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0.93 | Agriterra♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 14.68 | Airea♦ | 35½ | + 1½ | ... | 13.1 |
| 348.80 | Anglo-Eastern | 880 | + 14 | ... | 8.0 |
| 111.17 | Animalcare♦ | 185 | - 9 | ... | ... |
| 14,738.44 | **AB Foods** | 1895 | - 20½ | ... | 31.3 |
| 550.45 | Bakkavor Group‡ | 95 | + 3½ | ... | 9.9 |
| 582.55 | Barr (AG)‡ | 520 | + 9 | ... | 18.4 |
| 23.42 | Bidstack Group♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 9.08 | Brand Architekts♦ | 32½ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 59,631.56 | **Brit Amer Tob** | 2666½ | - 42½ | ... | 9.0 |
| 2,358.15 | Britvic | 913 | - 20 | ... | 20.7 |
| 8,661.16 | **Burberry** | 2290 | - 226 | ... | 19.7 |
| 514.81 | C&C Grp | 131 | - 22½ | ... | -7.8 |
| 7.28 | Capital Metals♦ | 3¾ | - ⅜ | ... | -1.0 |
| 132.69 | Carr's Grp‡ | 141 | + 8 | ... | 17.4 |
| 61.04 | Character Grp♦ | 316 | - 14 | ... | 5.6 |
| 151.77 | Churchill China♦‡ | 1380 | - 180 | ... | ... |
| 9,342.96 | **Coca Cola HBC** | 2538 | - 23 | ... | 20.2 |
| 54.46 | Colefax♦ | 752½ | ... | ... | 13.3 |
| 1,690.16 | Cranswick | 3146 | + 2 | ... | 16.6 |
| 562.20 | Devro | 329 | + ½ | ... | 17.8 |
| 79,902.86 | **Diageo** | 3548 | + 13½ | ... | 27.2 |
| 3.76 | Distil♦ | ½ | ... | ... | 13.7 |
| 440.61 | Evans (M.P.)♦‡ | 818 | - 14 | ... | 7.0 |
| 121.26 | Finsbury Food♦ | 93 | ... | ... | 11.0 |
| 3,192.64 | Games Workshop‡ | 9700 | - 130 | ... | 26.7 |
| 3,273.85 | Glanbia | 1214⅛ | - 12⅛ | ... | 29.9 |
| 379.02 | Greencore | 76¼ | - 7⅛ | ... | 15.2 |
| 218.86 | Headlam‡ | 271 | - 12 | ... | 11.6 |
| 660.91 | Hilton Food | 739 | + 18 | ... | 15.4 |
| 39.07 | Hornby♦ | 23 | - ½ | ... | ... |
| 16,445.09 | **Imperial Brands** | 1787½ | - 97½ | ... | 5.9 |
| 2.72 | J Lewis Hford♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | 8.2 |
| 14,367.07 | Kerry Gp | 8113½ | - 4¼ | ... | 22.4 |
| 55.18 | McBride | 31⅝ | - ⅛ | ... | -5.6 |
| 150.19 | Mulberry Group♦ | 250 | + 10 | ... | 10.3 |
| 372.05 | Nichols♦ | 1020 | - 20 | ... | ... |
| 151.77 | Norcros | 170 | - 8 | ... | 5.3 |
| 355.02 | Origin Ents♦ | 320⅞ | - 13 | ... | 10.1 |
| 0.92 | Pittards♦ | 6⅜ | - ⅝ | ... | 3.0 |
| 71.02 | Portmeirion♦‡ | 507½ | + 19½ | ... | 21.6 |
| 16.12 | Provexis♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | 0.3 |
| 845.45 | PZ Cussons | 197⅛ | + ¾ | ... | 22.7 |
| 41.97 | REA | 95¾ | - 1¼ | ... | -7.5 |
| 1.14 | Real Gd Fd♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 13.13 | Tandem♦‡ | 240 | ... | ... | 3.4 |
| 426.51 | Treatt | 700 | - 7 | ... | 28.1 |
| 0.89 | Ukrproduct Gp♦ | 2¼ | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| ... | Unilever (NV) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 107,761.84 | **Unilever**‡ | 4271 | - 82½ | ... | 21.9 |
| 560.63 | Victoria♦ | 487½ | - 34½ | ... | ... |

## Engineering

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0.31 | Ass Br Eng# | 15 | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 299.86 | Avon Rubber | 991 | + 25 | ... | ... |
| 1,612.85 | Babcock | 319 | + 7 | ... | -1.9 |
| 30,102.15 | **BAE** | 985½ | - 2⅜ | ... | 18.0 |
| 18.72 | Braime A N/V♦‡ | 1300 | - 50 | ... | 14.6 |
| 25.20 | Braime Group♦‡ | 1750 | ... | ... | 19.7 |
| 14.83 | Caffyns | 550 | ... | ... | 7.9 |
| 7.77 | Cap XX Ld♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -2.8 |
| 164.21 | Castings | 377 | + 3 | ... | 18.2 |
| 4.28 | Chamberlin♦ | 3⅜ | - ¼ | ... | -0.2 |
| 28.62 | Checkit♦ | 26½ | - ½ | ... | -3.2 |
| 206.88 | Cohort♦ | 499 | - 1½ | ... | 44.3 |
| 112.50 | Crestchic Plc♦ | 399 | ... | ... | ... |
| 86.88 | Dewhurst♦ | 1075 | ... | ... | 12.3 |
| 76.01 | Dialight | 229 | + 1 | ... | ... |
| 3,428.26 | Electrolux 'B' | 1247⅛ | - 14¾ | ... | 9.4 |
| 15.80 | Feedback♦ | 118½ | - 9 | ... | ... |
| 143.80 | Gooch Hsego♦ | 574 | + 6 | ... | 42.5 |
| 340.65 | Goodwin | 4430 | + 60 | ... | 24.4 |
| 9,483.54 | **Halma** | 2498 | + 55 | ... | 36.1 |
| 1,091.09 | Hill & Smith | 1362 | + 38 | ... | 32.0 |
| 3.21 | Holders Tech♦‡ | 76 | ... | ... | 4.6 |
| 2.94 | Image Scan♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 4,337.24 | IMI | 1663 | + 61 | ... | 22.7 |
| 1.20 | Inspirit Energy♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 597.95 | Judges Scientific♦ | 9380 | - 360 | ... | 47.3 |
| 10.85 | LPA♦ | 80½ | + ½ | ... | ... |
| 6,261.19 | Meggitt | 798¾ | + ¾ | ... | ... |
| 6,542.49 | **Melrose** | 484 | + 22½ | ... | ... |
| 830.43 | Morgan Advanced | 291 | + 4 | ... | 12.2 |
| 49.14 | Mpac♦ | 240 | + 7½ | ... | 6.3 |
| 76.63 | MS Intl♦ | 466 | - 24 | ... | 66.5 |
| 1,584.22 | Oxford Inst | 2745 | - 90 | ... | 37.5 |
| ... | Philips El nv | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4.54 | PipeHawk♦ | 12½ | ... | ... | 26.6 |
| 17.21 | Pressure Tech♦# | 44½ | + ½ | ... | -3.7 |
| 2,837.30 | Renishaw | 3898 | + 200 | ... | 22.2 |
| 66.05 | Renold♦ | 29¼ | - 1⅝ | ... | 10.4 |
| 13,053.45 | **Rolls-Royce** | 156 | + 7⅝ | ... | ... |
| 1.69 | Ross Gp | ⅝ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| 2,945.86 | Rotork‡ | 342⅛ | + 13¾ | ... | 37.2 |
| 150.87 | SDI Group♦ | 145 | - 5 | ... | 23.9 |
| 746.56 | Senior‡ | 178 | + 4¾ | ... | 31.0 |
| 198.10 | Severfield | 64 | - 1 | ... | 11.4 |
| 10.17 | Six Hundred♦ | 8⅝ | ... | ... | 50.4 |
| 6,122.43 | SKF B | 1437¼ | + 75⅜ | ... | 10.6 |
| 3.15 | Slingsby (HC)♦ | 300 | ... | ... | 4.9 |
| 6,014.15 | **Smiths** | 1711 | + 49½ | ... | 27.2 |
| 127.40 | Solid State♦ | 1125 | ... | ... | 27.1 |
| 181.41 | Somero Enter♦ | 325 | - 10 | ... | 7.2 |
| 4,018.58 | Spectris‡ | 3840 | + 23 | ... | 12.6 |
| 8,287.62 | **Spirax-Sarco**‡ | 11235 | + 165 | ... | 35.3 |
| 85.77 | Surface Trsfms♦ | 35½ | - 2 | ... | ... |
| 5.29 | Tanfield♦ | 3¼ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 424.38 | Thorpe FW♦ | 362 | + 2 | ... | 25.1 |
| 17.14 | TP Group♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 13.64 | Transense Tech♦ | 87 | + 3 | ... | 63.9 |
| 2,513.35 | Ultra Electrncs | 3500 | + 8 | ... | 37.4 |
| 1,140.73 | Vesuvius‡ | 420½ | + 13½ | ... | 11.2 |
| 335.49 | Videndum‡ | 720 | - 2 | ... | 13.2 |
| 435.95 | Volex♦ | 274 | + 1½ | ... | 14.9 |
| 4,702.87 | **Weir**‡ | 1811½ | + 27½ | ... | 30.6 |
| 434.33 | XP Power | 2200 | - 25 | ... | 11.7 |
| 10.42 | Zytronic♦ | 102½ | + 2 | ... | 34.1 |

## Health

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,810.87 | Abcam♦ | 1226 | - 41 | ... | ... |
| 538.02 | AdvancedMedical♦‡ | 248 | + 2½ | ... | 38.9 |
| 42.44 | Allergy Therap♦# | 6¼ | ... | ... | -7.3 |
| 52.77 | Angle♦ | 20¼ | - ½ | ... | -2.7 |
| 50.43 | Anpario♦ | 210 | - 7½ | ... | 11.0 |
| 186,137.86 | **AstraZeneca** | 12010 | ... | ... | ... |
| 142.66 | Circassia Group♦ | 34 | - ¾ | ... | 34.0 |
| 4,623.24 | **Convatec**‡ | 226⅛ | + 4⅛ | ... | 52.8 |
| 22.58 | Creighton | 33 | - 2 | ... | 6.3 |
| 4,156.77 | Dechra Pharma | 3650 | - 88 | ... | 54.5 |
| 10.28 | Deltex Medical♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | -8.5 |
| 72.10 | e-Therapeutics♦ | 12⅜ | - ¼ | ... | ... |
| 76.19 | Eco Animal Hlth♦ | 112½ | - 8½ | ... | 13.6 |
| 113.43 | EKF Diagnostics♦ | 25 | - ½ | ... | 7.0 |
| 125.22 | Futura Medical♦ | 42¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1,656.27 | Genus | 2518 | - 72 | ... | 44.8 |
| 58,304.34 | **GSK**‡ | 1423¾ | - 46⅜ | ... | 16.4 |
| 1.69 | Gunsynd♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | 3.6 |
| 31,402.17 | **Haleon** | 340 | - 2⅞ | ... | ... |
| 4,035.25 | Hikma Pharms | 1826 | - 26½ | ... | 13.6 |
| 1,784.23 | Hutchmed China♦ | 206 | - 21 | ... | ... |
| 109.44 | Immunodiag Sys♦ | 378 | ... | ... | ... |
| 10.70 | ImmuPharma♦ | 3⅛ | + ½ | ... | -1.0 |
| 2,094.33 | Indivior | 1519 | + 33 | ... | 86.9 |
| 30.02 | Inspiration Health♦ | 44 | - ⅝ | ... | 6.8 |
| 9.67 | IXICO♦ | 20 | + ½ | ... | 6.4 |
| 3,686.22 | Mediclinic | 500 | + 6½ | ... | 31.2 |

## Investment companies

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Forecast Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18,780.07 | **3i Group** | 1929½ | + 101 | ... | 16.6 |
| 2,997.64 | 3i Infrastructure | 325 | - 1½ | ... | -3.5 |
| 265.52 | Abrdn Div I&G | 88 | + ⅛ | ... | -25.6 |
| 1,080.28 | Aberforth Smlr | 1274 | + 10 | ... | -13.4 |
| 2,912.82 | Alliance | 1006 | + 18 | ... | -6.5 |
| 440.71 | Asia Dragon Tr | 381 | + 5 | ... | -13.2 |
| 3.99 | Athelney Trust | 185 | - 10 | ... | -17.3 |
| 916.85 | AVI Global Trust | 192½ | + 3 | ... | -10.4 |
| 141.39 | Baillie Gifford Ch Gr | 228 | + 1 | ... | -13.8 |
| 342.06 | Baillie Gifford Eu Gr | 95⅜ | + 1⅜ | ... | -14.8 |
| 712.49 | Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr | 764 | + 7 | ... | -9.2 |
| 459.41 | Baillie Gifford SN | 146⅜ | - 1½ | ... | -10.2 |
| 254.91 | Baillie Gifford UK Gr | 169⅜ | + 3⅜ | ... | -14.7 |
| 1,273.31 | Bankers | 100⅛ | + ½ | ... | -10.7 |
| 1,543.99 | BH Macro | 412½ | - 2½ | ... | 3.2 |
| 320.24 | Biotech Growth | 840 | ... | ... | -8.5 |
| 162.16 | BlckRck Com Inc | 119½ | + 2½ | ... | -9.0 |
| 257.48 | BlckRck Fro Inv | 136 | - 1 | ... | -9.9 |
| 562.57 | BlckRck Grt Euro | 557 | + 13 | ... | -2.9 |
| 39.38 | BlckRck Inc & Gwth | 188 | - 2 | ... | -11.4 |
| 112.49 | BlckRck Latin Am | 382 | + 10 | ... | -14.4 |
| 150.03 | BlckRck SustAm | 187 | + 1 | ... | -6.5 |
| 639.70 | BlckRck Smlr | 1316 | - 12 | ... | -13.1 |
| 599.44 | BlckRck Throgmorton | 596 | + 2 | ... | -5.3 |
| 1,204.45 | BlckRck Wld Min | 630 | + 8 | ... | 0.5 |
| 330.21 | CT Cap&Inc | 312 | + 3 | ... | -4.4 |
| 558.43 | Balanced Comm Prop | 79½ | + ⅛ | ... | -34.2 |
| 766.08 | The Glbl Smaller | 146⅛ | + 3¾ | ... | -13.8 |
| 367.14 | CT Priv Eq Ord | 504 | - 14 | ... | -28.2 |
| 146.71 | CT Real Estate | 63⅛ | + ⅛ | ... | -35.9 |
| 70.61 | CT UK HIT | 83 | - ½ | ... | -9.1 |
| 27.94 | CT UK HIT B | 91 | + ½ | ... | -0.5 |
| 107.05 | CT UK HIT UNIT | 334 | ... | ... | -8.6 |
| 145.22 | Brown Advsr US Sm | 1215 | + 25 | ... | -14.5 |
| 456.81 | Brunner | 1070 | + 5 | ... | -12.1 |
| 1,951.49 | Caledonia Inv | 3570 | + 50 | ... | -30.1 |
| 287.15 | Invesco BondInc | 162 | ... | ... | 1.3 |
| 2,059.97 | City of Lon IT | 415½ | + 1½ | ... | 1.9 |
| 66.58 | Crystal Amber Fd | 80 | + 1 | ... | -34.0 |
| 30.82 | Dunedin Entp | 560 | ... | ... | -8.0 |
| 1,114.90 | Edinburgh IT | 676 | + 10 | ... | -8.0 |
| 581.79 | Edin Wwide | 149⅜ | + ⅜ | ... | -17.6 |
| 96.43 | EP Global Opp | 330 | ... | ... | -10.1 |
| 337.02 | European Assets | 93½ | ... | ... | -5.7 |
| 777.43 | European Opp Tr | 781 | + 3 | ... | -12.6 |
| 4,680.27 | **F&C Invest Tr** | 903 | + 6 | ... | -4.3 |
| 372.08 | Fidlty Asian Val | 518 | - 2 | ... | -1.5 |
| 1,085.33 | Fidelity China Sp | 224 | - ½ | ... | -9.8 |
| 1,467.34 | Fidlty Euro Val | 359 | + 3 | ... | -4.3 |
| 234.41 | Fidlty Jap Tru | 181½ | + 5 | ... | -9.5 |
| 915.58 | Fidlty Spec Val | 282½ | ... | ... | -4.7 |
| 1,877.60 | Fins Gwth & Inc | 904 | + 3 | ... | -4.1 |
| 780.48 | GCP Infrastructure | 88½ | - 1¾ | ... | -19.6 |
| 534.76 | Gen Emer Mkts | 587 | + 15 | ... | -13.9 |
| 27.15 | Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl | 31¾ | - 2¾ | ... | -15.1 |
| 3,574.12 | Greencoat UK Wind | 154⅛ | - 4½ | ... | -7.6 |
| 68.80 | Hansa Investment | 172 | + 4 | ... | -42.7 |
| 134.80 | Hansa Inv Co 'A' | 168½ | - 1 | ... | -43.7 |
| 1,728.44 | Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq | 2185 | + 55 | ... | -44.2 |
| 338.30 | Hend Euro Foc | 159 | + ½ | ... | -12.1 |
| 217.41 | Hend High Inc | 167½ | - 7½ | ... | ... |
| 608.82 | Hend Smlr | 815 | + 8 | ... | -13.0 |
| 1,061.11 | Herald | 1758 | + 38 | ... | -14.8 |
| 1,711.90 | HgCapital Trust | 374 | + 10½ | ... | -20.0 |
| 3,071.61 | HICL Infra | 151⅛ | - 2⅜ | ... | -9.7 |
| 0.22 | Highbridge Tactical | 389 | ... | ... | 47.5 |
| 781.16 | ICG Ent Tr | 1148 | + 54 | ... | -41.0 |
| 1,256.96 | Impax Env Mkts | 415½ | + 4½ | ... | -4.3 |
| 214.60 | Invesco Asia Tr | 321 | ... | ... | -13.3 |
| 287.15 | Invesco BondInc | 162 | ... | ... | 1.3 |
| 5.44 | IPST Bal | 131½ | - ½ | ... | -13.9 |
| 58.31 | IPST Gbl Eq | 232 | + 1 | ... | -14.2 |
| 1.14 | IPST Managed | 91 | ... | ... | -16.7 |
| 111.59 | IPST UK Eq | 162 | + 1 | ... | -13.3 |
| 146.13 | IP UKSmallerCos | 432 | + 5 | ... | -11.9 |
| 1,335.54 | JPM American | 728 | + 17 | ... | -3.5 |
| 330.67 | JPM Asia | 353 | + 6 | ... | -9.0 |
| 227.14 | JPM Chinese | 273 | + ½ | ... | -9.7 |
| 410.60 | JPM Claverhs | 688 | + 8 | ... | -3.6 |
| 1,205.26 | JPM Em Mkts | 104⅜ | + 3 | ... | -9.9 |
| 658.25 | JPM Euro disc | 418 | + 2 | ... | -14.5 |
| 381.20 | JPM GEMI | 128½ | + ½ | ... | -10.5 |
| 1,815.21 | JPM GG&I | 464 | + 8½ | ... | 0.8 |
| 598.17 | JPM Indian | 806 | + 12 | ... | -18.0 |
| 172.25 | JPM Jap Sml Co | 316 | - 2 | ... | -12.0 |
| 747.25 | JPM Japan# | 489 | + 17 | ... | -8.7 |
| 197.04 | JPM Mid Cap | 910 | + 6 | ... | -15.3 |
| 71.51 | JPM Multi-Ass G&I | 94½ | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| ... | "JPM Em E | GBX | ... | ... | ... |
| 213.08 | JPM Smllr Co | 273 | - 3 | ... | -13.1 |
| 129.19 | Keystone IT | 209 | + 3½ | ... | -17.1 |
| 1,068.53 | Law Debenture | 820 | + 5 | ... | 1.9 |
| 335.03 | Lowland | 124 | + ½ | ... | -10.5 |
| 111.30 | Majedie | 210 | - 2 | ... | -16.9 |
| 261.14 | M Currie Port | 348 | - 1 | ... | -0.1 |
| 53.55 | Marwyn Val In | 96½ | + 4 | ... | -41.9 |
| 1,607.81 | Mercantile IT | 203½ | + 1 | ... | -14.3 |
| 833.46 | Merchants | 572 | + 5 | ... | 1.2 |
| 438.97 | Mid Wynd | 690 | + 3 | ... | -3.7 |
| 2,306.32 | Monks Inv Tst | 1002 | + 26 | ... | -10.3 |
| 268.61 | Montanaro Eur Sml | 141¾ | - ⅛ | ... | -12.3 |
| 981.18 | Murray Income Trust | 867 | - 4 | ... | -7.5 |
| 1,678.70 | Murray Int | 268⅛ | + 2¾ | ... | 1.8 |
| 97.07 | Nb Global Floating | 73¼ | ... | ... | -7.6 |
| 439.08 | Pacific Assets | 363 | + 7 | ... | -5.9 |
| 1,433.36 | Pantheon Int | 270½ | + 8½ | ... | -40.9 |
| 5,185.57 | **Pershing Sq** | 2732 | + 4 | ... | -36.5 |
| 1,873.66 | Personal Assets | 478½ | + ½ | ... | -0.4 |
| 2,652.65 | Polar Cap Tech | 2105 | + 100 | ... | -13.1 |
| 26.35 | Prem Glb & Inf | 144½ | - 1 | ... | -15.8 |
| 3,015.07 | Renewables Inf | 121⅜ | - 2⅜ | ... | -8.4 |
| 2,951.74 | RIT Cap Ptnr | 1940 | - 26 | ... | -17.7 |
| 274.76 | Riverstone | 564 | + 14 | ... | -53.2 |
| 430.81 | Schroder TotRt | 416 | + 3 | ... | -4.1 |
| 769.55 | Schrd Asia Pac | 491½ | + 5½ | ... | -11.6 |
| 215.34 | Schrod Inc Gwth | 310 | + 2 | ... | -2.2 |
| 263.07 | Schrod Jap Gwth | 219 | + 3 | ... | -10.9 |
| 195.04 | Schrod UKMid | 564 | + 4 | ... | -13.2 |
| 130.41 | Schroder UK PP Tr | 14⅜ | ... | ... | -49.3 |
| 962.06 | Scot American | 542 | + 8 | ... | 1.1 |
| 9,118.55 | **Scot Mtge** | 647¾ | + 26¾ | ... | -22.1 |
| 219.00 | Secs Tst Scot | 221 | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 1,420.43 | Sequoia Eco | 82½ | + ¾ | ... | -10.1 |
| 701.31 | Temple Bar | 229½ | + 1½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 1,695.72 | Tplton Emg Mkt | 147 | + 3 | ... | -14.3 |
| 0.88 | Tiger Royal and Inv♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | 45.8 |
| 901.28 | TR Property | 284 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 185.53 | Troy Inc&Gth | 72½ | + ⅛ | ... | -2.5 |
| 122.83 | Utilico Ord | 146½ | + 1 | ... | -28.7 |
| 458.15 | Utilico Emerging Mkt | 227 | + 3 | ... | -12.5 |
| 1,138.48 | Vietnam Ent Inv | 554 | + 11 | ... | -16.4 |
| 1,533.93 | Witan | 233 | + 5 | ... | -10.0 |
| 2,031.04 | Ww Health | 3300 | + 10 | ... | -9.4 |

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# Equity prices Business

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.32 | N4 Pharma♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| CHF 191.85bn | Novartis | CHF 90.51 | -2.12 | ... | 10.2 |
| 5.82 | Omega Diags♦ | 2⅜ | ... | ... | -0.9 |
| 7.34 | Ovoca Bio♦ | 9 | +2¼ | ... | -2.5 |
| 430.70 | Oxford Biomedica | 446½ | +39 | ... | 20.0 |
| 2.68 | Physiomics♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 14.98 | Proteome Scies♦ | 5 | +⅜ | ... | ... |
| 46,574.47 | **Reckitt Benckiser**‡ | 6502 | +12 | ... | ... |
| 9.10 | RUA Life Sciences♦ | 41 | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| 85.09 | Sareum Hldgs♦ | 125 | -2½ | ... | ... |
| 11,196.69 | **Smith & Neph** | 1282 | +6 | ... | 29.0 |
| 965.82 | Spire Hcare | 239 | -½ | ... | ... |
| 19.64 | Synairgen♦ | 9¾ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 38.35 | Tissue Regenix♦ | 54½ | -2½ | ... | ... |
| 40.49 | Totally♦ | 20⅝ | -⅞ | ... | 32.7 |
| 158.31 | Tristel♦ | 335 | +2½ | ... | 69.0 |
| 9.98 | ValiRx♦ | 9¾ | -¼ | ... | ... |

## Industrials

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 147.42 | Accsys Tech♦ | 67⅛ | +2½ | ... | ... |
| 36,905.23 | BASF | 4128¾ | +43¾ | ... | 8.1 |
| 46,513.65 | Bayer DM50 | 4734½ | +74½ | ... | 55.2 |
| 4.51 | Biome Tech♦ | 120 | -2½ | ... | -4.0 |
| 7.26 | Byotrol♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 4.98 | Camb Gbl Timber♦ | 6¾ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 1,150.42 | Coats Grp‡ | 72 | -1⅝ | ... | 16.0 |
| 8,822.17 | **Croda**‡ | 6318 | -476 | ... | 27.5 |
| 88.86 | Cropper (James)♦ | 930 | +180 | ... | 28.3 |
| 677.47 | Elementis | 115⅜ | -3 | ... | ... |
| 7.22 | Hardide♦ | 12¼ | -1¼ | ... | -2.3 |
| 3,464.52 | **Johnson Math** | 1888½ | -53 | ... | 23.8 |
| 6,241.79 | **Mondi** | 1285½ | +4½ | ... | 9.8 |
| 15.66 | Robinson♦ | 93½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 4,374.78 | **DS Smith** | 317½ | +4 | ... | 18.0 |
| 4,990.20 | Swire Pacific | 581⅝ | -25⅝ | ... | ... |
| 12.71 | Symph Environ♦ | 6⅞ | -¾ | ... | ... |
| 509.40 | Synthomer | 109 | -1⅞ | ... | 2.2 |
| 41,057.89 | Takeda Pharm | 2594¾ | -55⅛ | ... | 14.5 |
| 35.22 | Velocys♦ | 2½ | -1 | ... | -3.1 |
| 1,336.60 | Victrex | 1536 | +16 | ... | 18.2 |
| 99.24 | Wynnstay Group♦ | 440 | +10 | ... | 10.1 |
| 184.27 | Zotefoams‡ | 379 | -1 | ... | 22.7 |

## Leisure

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 345.07 | 888 Hldgs | 77 | -5 | ... | 5.7 |
| 287.28 | Accesso Tech♦ | 694 | -21 | ... | 18.2 |
| 54.12 | Best of the Best♦ | 575 | +25 | ... | 6.4 |
| 10,039.43 | Carnival | 770½ | +69¾ | ... | -1.2 |
| 120.53 | Celtic♦ | 127½ | ... | ... | 12.6 |
| 16.62 | Cineworld | 1⅛ | +¼ | ... | ... |
| 1,241.62 | Domino's Pizza | 296 | -6⅜ | ... | 15.1 |
| 8,685.55 | **Entain** | 1475 | +9 | ... | 33.0 |
| 28,937.46 | **Flutter Ent** | 16400 | +480 | ... | ... |
| 90.38 | Gaming Realms♦ | 30⅞ | -1⅛ | ... | ... |
| 14.58 | Heavitree♦ | 290 | ... | ... | 17.4 |
| 5.53 | Heavitree A♦ | 110 | ... | ... | 6.6 |
| 2.80 | Hermes Pacific♦ | 120 | ... | ... | ... |
| 9,214.14 | **InterContinental Hotels** | 5362 | +96 | ... | 50.2 |
| 8.09 | Minoan Gp♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -7.8 |
| 1,242.56 | Mitch & Butlers | 208 | +11½ | ... | ... |
| 169.94 | On The Beach | 102 | -20¾ | ... | -5.3 |
| 463.83 | PPHE Hotels‡ | 1095 | +15 | ... | -8.9 |
| 477.80 | Rank Grp | 102 | +1¾ | ... | 13.7 |
| 368.00 | Restaurant Gp | 48 | -2⅜ | ... | -9.0 |
| 14.43 | Rotala♦ | 46½ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 19.20 | Sportech♦ | 19⅛ | +⅞ | ... | ... |
| 2,083.03 | SSP | 261½ | +3 | ... | -5.1 |
| 4.46 | Tasty♦ | 3 | -⅛ | ... | 4.1 |
| 15.17 | Tintra♦ | 92½ | +2½ | ... | -1.6 |
| 1,786.96 | Tui | 529⅛ | +18⅜ | ... | -5.5 |
| 5.51 | Webis Holdings♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 948.24 | Wetherspoon JD | 736½ | -21½ | ... | -6.8 |
| 6,642.11 | **Whitbread** | 3306 | +96 | ... | ... |
| 675.50 | Young & Co - A♦ | 1155 | -40 | ... | ... |
| 441.56 | Young & Co - N/V♦ | 755 | +5 | ... | ... |

## Media

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18.78 | 7digital Gp♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -5.7 |
| 7.63 | Aeorema Comms♦ | 80 | -1½ | ... | 22.1 |
| 31.17 | Altitude Group♦ | 44 | -½ | ... | ... |
| 9.70 | Arcontech Grp♦ | 72½ | ... | ... | 10.0 |
| 1,072.49 | Ascential | 243½ | +4⅜ | ... | ... |
| 5,854.49 | **Auto Trader** | 639 | +8 | ... | 31.5 |
| 355.00 | Bloomsbury Pub | 435 | -½ | ... | 17.9 |
| 5.67 | Bonhill Group♦ | 4¾ | -¼ | ... | ... |
| 29.44 | Catalyst Media♦ | 140 | ... | ... | ... |
| 0.40 | Catenae♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 569.16 | Daily Mail‡ | 270 | ... | ... | 10.3 |
| 2.54 | DCD Media♦# | 100 | -50 | ... | 5.0 |
| 57.80 | Ebiquity♦ | 48 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1,595.85 | Euromoney In Inv | 1460 | +2 | ... | ... |
| 1,082.89 | Future | 896 | -134 | ... | 15.4 |
| 1,543.85 | GlobalData♦ | 1305 | ... | ... | 64.6 |
| 351.72 | Hyve Group | 120½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 149.44 | IG Design Grp♦ | 152½ | -9 | ... | 22.3 |
| 10,272.75 | **Informa** | 727¾ | +28⅛ | ... | ... |
| 3,049.21 | ITV‡ | 75½ | +1 | ... | 8.1 |
| 4.34 | Jaywing♦ | 4⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 5.46 | Live Company Gp♦ | 2 | +¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 0.73 | Mediazest♦ | ... | ... | ... | -5.2 |
| 10.54 | Merit Grp♦ | 44 | -1½ | ... | ... |
| 0.27 | Mirada♦ | 3 | -16 | ... | -0.1 |
| 45.96 | Mission Group♦ | 50½ | -½ | ... | 8.5 |
| 1,403.36 | Moneysupermarket | 261⅜ | -5⅛ | ... | 26.6 |
| 5,696.99 | News Corp A | 1495⅜ | +35⅜ | ... | 24.4 |
| 2,893.73 | News Corp B | 1503 | +32½ | ... | 24.5 |
| 787.05 | Next 15 Comms♦ | 799 | -11 | ... | ... |
| 5,945.42 | **Pearson** | 830⅛ | +7⅜ | ... | 39.7 |
| 404.49 | Photo-Me | 107 | +1½ | ... | 18.6 |
| 4.19 | Primorus Inv♦ | 3 | -⅛ | ... | 5.4 |
| 68.08 | Quarto | 166½ | +½ | ... | 9.2 |
| 242.04 | Reach‡ | 76¼ | ... | ... | 84.7 |
| 14.54 | REACT Grp♦ | 1⅜ | ... | ... | 19.6 |
| 47,525.38 | **Relx**‡ | 2501 | +10 | ... | 32.9 |
| 4,533.87 | **Rightmove**‡ | 553⅜ | -6¾ | ... | 31.3 |
| 1.81 | SpaceandPeople♦ | 92½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 117.74 | STV Group‡ | 252 | ... | ... | 6.1 |
| 23.46 | System1 Group♦ | 185 | -25 | ... | 8.8 |
| 6,738.58 | 21st Cent Fox Inc A | 2504½ | +34½ | ... | 13.7 |
| 5,447.49 | 21st Cent Fox Inc B | 2312¼ | +39⅜ | ... | 12.6 |
| 3.09 | Vela Tech♦ | ... | ... | ... | 6.3 |
| 262.73 | Wilmington | 298 | +26 | ... | 18.9 |
| 9,611.43 | **WPP** | 894⅜ | -¾ | ... | 17.0 |
| 22.90 | Zinc Media♦ | 105 | -4 | ... | -6.6 |

## Natural resources

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.15 | ADM Energy♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2.67 | Advance Energy♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 137.29 | AFC Energy♦ | 18⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | Afentra PLC | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 7.34 | Alba Mineral Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 23.97 | Alien Metals♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 2,182.09 | Alumina | 75⅛ | -3⅛ | ... | 15.6 |
| 45.27 | Aminex | 1 | ... | ... | -6.3 |
| 23.72 | Amur Mins Corp♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 12,455.23 | Anglo Amer Plat | 4694⅞ | +4647½ | ... | 3.3 |
| 31,433.08 | **Anglo American** | 2350 | +12½ | ... | 4.6 |
| 122.81 | Anglo Asian Mng♦ | 107½ | -6½ | ... | 9.3 |
| 13,964.66 | **Antofagasta** | 1416½ | +19½ | ... | 14.6 |
| 41.98 | Arc Minerals♦ | 3⅜ | -⅛ | ... | 2.4 |
| 29.23 | Ariana Res♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | 3.4 |
| 1.68 | Arkle Resources♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | -1.4 |
| 7.78 | Armadale Cap♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 22.96 | Asiamet Rsrcs♦ | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 460.20 | Atalaya Mine♦ | 329 | -7 | ... | 4.1 |
| 18.03 | Baron Oil♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 23.14 | Beowulf Mining♦ | 2 | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 3.01 | Bezant Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 119,066.43 | BHP Group | 2352½ | +18½ | ... | 10.2 |
| 19.88 | Border & Sthn Pet♦ | 2⅝ | ... | ... | ... |
| 83.72 | Bougainville | 20¾ | +¾ | ... | ... |
| 3.52 | BowLeven♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 84,681.96 | **BP**‡ | 481⅜ | -1½ | ... | 17.4 |
| 16.84 | Cadence Min♦ | 9¾ | -⅛ | ... | 0.9 |
| 4.15 | Cadogan Petrol | 1⅝ | ... | ... | 23.6 |
| 202.43 | Caledonia Mining♦ | 1055 | -15 | ... | 10.3 |
| 612.88 | Capricorn Energy‡ | 195 | -16⅜ | ... | 1.5 |
| 137.28 | Caspian Sunrise♦ | 6 | ... | ... | ... |
| 1,223.30 | Centamin | 105½ | -2¾ | ... | 16.3 |
| 363.25 | Cent Asia Metals♦‡ | 200 | -4 | ... | 5.8 |
| 73.10 | Chaarat Gold♦ | 10½ | +1 | ... | ... |
| 157.27 | Chariot Oil & Gas♦ | 16¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 7.06 | China Nonferr Gold♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 4.90 | Clontarf Energy♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 53.33 | Condor Gld♦ | 29½ | -1½ | ... | ... |
| 2.76 | Corcel♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 796.39 | DRD Gold | 92 | +91⅛ | ... | 10.8 |
| 6.13 | ECR Minerals♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -3.2 |
| 1.64 | Edenville Energy♦ | 6 | +1¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 9.72 | Empyrean Energy♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -8.7 |
| 4,956.71 | **Endeavour** | 2004 | -48 | ... | 29.8 |
| 313.44 | EnQuest | 16½ | +¾ | ... | 1.0 |
| 78.61 | Eurasia Mining♦ | 2¾ | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 11.75 | Europa Oil&Gas♦ | 1⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 11.1 |
| 623.26 | Ferrexpo | 104⅛ | -½ | ... | 0.8 |
| 4,898.87 | **Fresnillo**‡ | 664¾ | -16⅜ | ... | 15.7 |
| 43.86 | G3 Exploration# | 28 | ... | ... | -2.6 |
| 21.24 | Galantas Gold♦ | 18½ | -½ | ... | -3.1 |
| 5.25 | GCM Resources♦ | 2¾ | ... | ... | -2.3 |
| 32.76 | Gem Diamonds | 23½ | -⅞ | ... | 2.4 |
| 10.09 | Getech♦ | 15 | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 54,403.74 | **Glencore**‡ | 434⅞ | +2½ | ... | 15.9 |
| 1.80 | Global Petrol♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.1 |
| 10,864.15 | Gold Fields | 1215¾ | +1203¼ | ... | 18.7 |
| 13.42 | Goldplat♦ | 8 | -½ | ... | 6.0 |
| 16.20 | Goldstone Res♦ | 3¼ | -⅜ | ... | ... |
| 370.01 | Greatld Gld♦ | 7¼ | -1⅛ | ... | ... |
| 170.46 | Griffin Mining♦ | 88⅜ | -2 | ... | 9.7 |
| 285.23 | Gulf Keystone | 131⅞ | -16¼ | ... | 8.2 |
| 25.26 | Harland & Wolff Gp♦ | 14½ | -1½ | ... | 1.1 |
| 425.23 | Hochschild | 82¾ | +1⅝ | ... | 8.0 |
| 376.29 | Horizonte Minrls♦ | 140 | ... | ... | ... |
| 334.00 | Hunting PLC | 202½ | -10 | ... | -5.1 |
| 20.54 | IGas Energy♦ | 16 | -⅛ | ... | -0.8 |
| 1.78 | Independ Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 356.80 | Indus Gas♦ | 195 | ... | ... | 20.2 |
| 12.28 | Ironveld♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -4.9 |
| 423.79 | ITM Power♦ | 68¾ | -6⅜ | ... | ... |
| 207.00 | Jubilee Metals♦ | 7½ | -½ | ... | 6.3 |
| 2.20 | Karel Diamd Res♦ | 2½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 35.73 | KEFI Gold and Copper♦ | ⅞ | ... | ... | -3.7 |
| 428.16 | Kenmare Res‡ | 451½ | +3½ | ... | 5.2 |
| 37.60 | Lamprell# | 8⅞ | ... | ... | -0.7 |
| 15.00 | Landore Res♦ | 13 | +1¼ | ... | -2.9 |
| 4.22 | Lansdowne O&G♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | ... |
| 3.42 | Leeds Group♦ | 12½ | ... | ... | -2.0 |
| 23.00 | Lexington Gold♦ | 8⅛ | -¼ | ... | ... |
| 36.97 | MC Mining♦ | 9¼ | -1 | ... | -1.9 |
| 37.60 | Metals Explorn♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | 3.0 |
| 1.49 | Nostra Terra♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.2 |
| 17.02 | Nostrum O&G# | 10 | +¼ | ... | ... |
| 4,549.45 | Oil Search | 218⅞ | +5⅜ | ... | 60.3 |
| 13.60 | Oilex♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.7 |
| 5.64 | Oriole Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -1.9 |
| 3.54 | Ormonde Mining♦# | ¾ | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 8.77 | Orosur Mining♦ | 4⅝ | ... | ... | -6.9 |
| 316.22 | Pan African Res♦ | 16½ | -1½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 133.94 | Pantheon Res♦ | 17 | -¾ | ... | ... |
| 22.95 | Parkmead Grp♦ | 21 | -1 | ... | -1.8 |
| 3.16 | Pathfinder Mins♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -4.1 |
| 127.59 | Petra Diamonds | 65⅝ | -1⅝ | ... | 2.2 |
| 2.36 | Petrel Resources♦ | 1¼ | ... | ... | -6.7 |
| 68.50 | Petro Matad♦ | 6⅛ | -⅞ | ... | ... |
| 377.96 | Petrofac | 72⅜ | +2¼ | ... | -1.8 |
| 1.29 | Petroneft Res♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 47.51 | Petropavlovsk# | 1⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 1.6 |
| 181.13 | Phoenix Global♦ | 6½ | -½ | ... | -1.6 |
| 2.66 | Plexus Holdings♦ | 2⅝ | -¼ | ... | -0.6 |
| 1,089.34 | Polymetal Intl | 230 | -20 | ... | ... |
| 298.56 | Porvair‡ | 644 | -16 | ... | 24.7 |
| 26.36 | Prospex Energy♦ | 9¼ | +¼ | ... | ... |
| 159.28 | Proton Motor Power S♦ | 10¼ | -½ | ... | -1.8 |
| 34.84 | Providence Res♦ | 3¼ | -⅛ | ... | 29.0 |
| 21.36 | Quadrise Fuels Intl♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -5.8 |
| 8.71 | Rambler Met&Min♦# | 5⅜ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 13.56 | Reabold Resources♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.7 |
| 2.29 | Red Rock Res♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.8 |
| 21,740.45 | Rio Tinto Ltd | 5856½ | +21⅞ | ... | 6.1 |
| 80,272.77 | **Rio Tinto** | 4948½ | +31 | ... | 5.1 |
| 116.98 | San Leon Energy♦ | 26 | +¼ | ... | 9.7 |
| 3.15 | Scirocco Energy♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 24.24 | Serabi Gold♦ | 32 | ... | ... | 4.3 |
| 864.95 | Serica Energy♦ | 225¾ | -7⅛ | ... | ... |
| 118.29 | Shanta Gold♦‡ | 11¼ | -¼ | ... | 7.1 |
| 164,397.21 | **Shell**‡ | 2409 | ... | ... | 12.7 |
| 32.81 | Sound Energy♦ | 1¾ | -⅛ | ... | 11.0 |
| 3.57 | Sunrise Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2.67 | Tertiary Minerals♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -3.5 |
| 6.58 | Thor Mining♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -1.7 |
| 119,504.41 | Total Eng SE | 4895 | +58 | ... | 11.2 |
| 1.96 | Tower Resources♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.9 |
| 358.90 | Tullow Oil | 24¾ | +1 | ... | 2.4 |
| 14.35 | UK Oil & Gas♦ | ... | ... | ... | -2.2 |
| 2.47 | URU Metals♦ | 150 | ... | ... | 4.8 |
| 20.79 | Vast Res♦ | ⅝ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 9.99 | Victoria Oil&Gas♦# | 3¾ | -⅛ | ... | -1.8 |
| 3.89 | W Resources♦# | 2⅝ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 3.10 | Westmount Engy♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -0.4 |
| 967.88 | Wood Grp (J) | 139⅞ | -79 | ... | -5.7 |
| 13.67 | Woodbois♦ | ½ | ... | ... | 2.1 |
| 14.13 | Xtract Resources♦ | 1⅝ | ... | ... | -2.9 |
| 65.46 | Zephyr Energy♦ | 4 | -⅜ | ... | -5.2 |

## Professional & support services

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,320.02 | 4imprint Grp‡ | 4700 | +225 | ... | 79.3 |
| 227.52 | Andrews Sykes♦ | 540 | +10 | ... | 17.2 |
| 21,825.81 | **Ashtead** | 4978 | +261 | ... | 24.2 |
| 1.39 | Asimilar Group♦ | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| 75.44 | AssetCo♦ | 53½ | -½ | ... | 0.3 |
| 55.94 | Avisen♦ | 50½ | +½ | ... | ... |
| 204.34 | Begbies Traynor♦ | 132 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 129.46 | Blancco Tech♦ | 171 | -6½ | ... | 61.2 |
| 10,594.27 | **Bunzl**‡ | 3137 | -49 | ... | 23.8 |
| 540.65 | Capita | 32 | -1 | ... | 2.4 |
| 8.19 | CEPS♦ | 39 | ... | ... | -8.8 |
| 35.15 | Christie Group♦ | 132½ | -17½ | ... | 56.3 |
| 38,999.32 | **Compass** | 2235 | +78 | ... | 54.3 |
| 16.85 | CPPGroup♦ | 190½ | -18½ | ... | ... |
| 7.08 | Croma Security♦ | 47½ | -¼ | ... | 6.8 |
| 4,913.66 | **DCC** | 4976 | +257 | ... | 16.4 |
| 82.08 | De La Rue | 42 | ... | ... | 5.5 |
| 4,117.54 | Diploma | 3072 | +222 | ... | 54.9 |
| 799.76 | Discoverie | 830 | +22 | ... | 68.0 |
| 17.24 | Driver Group♦ | 33 | ... | ... | 15.7 |
| 567.38 | Essentra‡ | 192 | -6¾ | ... | 21.5 |
| 25,855.80 | **Experian** | 2813 | +62 | ... | 36.0 |
| 24,309.40 | Ferguson | 11865 | +235 | ... | 17.5 |
| 31.68 | FIH Group♦ | 253 | -17 | ... | ... |
| 11.45 | Grafenia♦ | 10 | ... | ... | -7.4 |
| 127.51 | Hargeaves Serv♦ | 392 | +4½ | ... | 4.1 |
| 301.66 | Impellam Grp♦ | 670 | +10 | ... | 36.6 |
| 18.90 | Ince G♦# | 5⅛ | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| 6,667.15 | **Intertek** | 4131 | +13 | ... | 23.2 |
| 1,485.87 | IWG | 147½ | -2½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 508.92 | Johnson Srvce♦ | 120½ | -3⅛ | ... | 75.3 |
| 27.49 | Journeo♦ | 169½ | -2 | ... | 38.0 |
| 365.53 | Kier Gp | 81⅞ | +4⅞ | ... | 7.9 |
| 248.07 | Latham (J)♦ | 1230 | ... | ... | 6.7 |
| 255.69 | Lok'n Store♦‡ | 850 | +10 | ... | 25.7 |
| 343.29 | Lon Security♦ | 2800 | +50 | ... | 15.4 |
| 288.02 | LSL Prop Services‡ | 277 | -11 | ... | 7.7 |
| 174.17 | Macfarlane‡ | 110 | -1½ | ... | 12.7 |
| 15.08 | Maintel Hldgs♦ | 105 | ... | ... | 3.2 |
| 4.03 | Malvern Intl♦ | 16½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 269.82 | Mears Group | 243 | -2 | ... | 21.1 |
| 558.16 | Menzies (John) | 607 | +1 | ... | 48.0 |
| 1,259.74 | Mitie Gp | 92½ | ... | ... | 46.2 |
| 5.74 | MobilityOne♦ | 5⅜ | +⅛ | ... | 4.0 |
| 5.02 | Newmark Sec♦ | 53½ | -3 | ... | ... |
| 3.25 | Norm Broadbent♦ | 5¼ | ... | ... | -9.9 |
| 9.36 | Northern Bear♦ | 50 | ... | ... | 5.1 |
| 130.93 | NWF Grp♦ | 265 | +6 | ... | ... |
| 1,457.75 | PageGroup‡ | 443½ | +2½ | ... | 11.9 |
| 33.71 | PCI-PAL♦ | 51½ | -3 | ... | ... |
| 3.96 | Petards♦ | 7 | -½ | ... | 12.7 |
| 1.66 | PHSC♦ | 14 | -1½ | ... | 25.4 |
| 26.71 | PowerHouse Egy♦ | ⅝ | -⅛ | ... | -1.2 |
| 175.96 | Record | 88⅜ | +2¾ | ... | 24.2 |
| 888.20 | Redde Northgate | 387½ | +8 | ... | 9.7 |
| 589.55 | Renew Hldgs♦ | 745 | +11 | ... | 18.4 |
| 475.88 | Renewi | 593 | -1 | ... | 12.5 |
| 16,077.85 | **Rentokil** | 638 | -7½ | ... | 45.2 |
| 358.74 | Restore♦ | 262 | -32 | ... | 31.1 |
| 355.89 | Ricardo | 572 | -8 | ... | 51.0 |
| 317.74 | Robert Walters‡ | 425 | +5 | ... | 9.7 |
| 4.51 | Roebuck Food Grp♦ | 15 | -½ | ... | 2.2 |
| 613.30 | RPS Group | 221 | ... | ... | ... |
| 4,061.35 | **RS Group** | 859 | +2⅛ | ... | 21.8 |
| 2.49 | RTC Group♦ | 17 | ... | ... | ... |
| 968.25 | RWS Hldgs♦ | 248½ | -⅛ | ... | 22.8 |
| 180.87 | Science Group♦‡ | 400 | -6 | ... | 18.4 |
| 1,662.37 | Serco‡ | 149 | -1 | ... | 6.1 |
| 125.83 | Smiths News | 50¾ | +1¼ | ... | 4.9 |
| 7,778.46 | **Smurfit Kappa** | 2990 | +10 | ... | 13.6 |
| 62.99 | Staffline Gp♦ | 38 | -2 | ... | 29.2 |
| 541.22 | SThree‡ | 402½ | +4½ | ... | 13.0 |
| 19.13 | Synectics♦ | 107½ | +1 | ... | ... |
| 37.53 | Thruvision Group♦ | 25½ | ... | ... | -9.2 |
| 85.42 | Tribal♦ | 40¼ | +¼ | ... | 12.5 |
| 22.33 | Vianet♦ | 77½ | +5½ | ... | ... |
| 261.00 | Vp | 650 | -5 | ... | 16.0 |
| 3.80 | Westminster♦ | 1⅛ | ... | ... | -1.4 |

## Real estate

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,337.95 | Shaftesbury Cap | 119⅝ | +6½ | ... | 35.2 |

## Retailing

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 387.68 | AO World | 67⅛ | -8¾ | ... | ... |
| 4,866.00 | **B&M European** | 485⅝ | -5⅞ | ... | 11.3 |
| 119.73 | Brown (N)♦ | 26 | -1 | ... | 7.6 |
| 321.41 | Card Factory | 93¾ | -7½ | ... | ... |
| 1,543.58 | CVS Group♦ | 2162 | -30 | ... | 60.5 |
| 276.76 | DFS Furn‡ | 118⅛ | -6¾ | ... | 6.2 |
| 2,329.37 | Dunelm | 1155 | -4 | ... | 15.5 |
| 3,578.52 | **Frasers Group** | 765½ | -11½ | ... | 34.0 |
| 2,802.20 | Greggs‡ | 2744 | -108 | ... | 24.0 |
| 437.20 | Halfords | 199⅝ | +1 | ... | 6.6 |
| 3,747.36 | Howden Joinery‡ | 679⅛ | -14⅜ | ... | 12.8 |
| 3,275.15 | Inchcape‡ | 793 | +18 | ... | 26.7 |
| 5.02 | IQ-AI | 2¾ | +¼ | ... | -7.8 |
| 8,254.14 | **JD Sports** | 159¼ | -14 | ... | 19.2 |
| 4,660.73 | **Kingfisher** | 240½ | -9½ | ... | 6.0 |
| 316.40 | Lookers‡ | 82⅝ | -2½ | ... | 5.3 |
| 3,174.59 | Marks & Spencer | 161½ | -6⅛ | ... | ... |
| 34.82 | Mothercare♦ | 6⅛ | +¼ | ... | -3.8 |
| 76.08 | Naked Wines♦ | 102¾ | -6⅛ | ... | ... |
| 8,469.92 | **Next** | 6594 | -224 | ... | 12.5 |
| 3,256.67 | **Ocado** | 394 | -47⅜ | ... | ... |
| 246.14 | Pendragon | 17½ | ... | ... | 5.5 |
| 1,855.48 | Pets at Home | 384 | -5⅜ | ... | 15.6 |
| 161.11 | Saga | 114¾ | +¾ | ... | ... |
| 6,629.54 | **Sainsbury's** | 281 | -8¼ | ... | 23.6 |
| 2,158.74 | WH Smith | 1649 | +17 | ... | ... |
| 62.06 | Sosandar♦ | 25 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 6.83 | Stanley Gbbns♦ | 1½ | ... | ... | -1.6 |
| 100.06 | Studio Retail# | 115 | -6 | ... | 2.4 |
| 209.59 | Ted Baker | 109¾ | -⅛ | ... | ... |
| 19,479.80 | **Tesco**‡ | 266⅝ | -9 | ... | 13.5 |
| 100.31 | Topps Tiles | 51 | +1¼ | ... | 9.2 |

## Technology

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99.61 | Access Intell♦ | 78 | ... | ... | ... |
| 17.30 | Aferian plc♦ | 20¼ | -17⅝ | ... | 3.6 |
| 428.83 | Alfa Financial | 145 | +2½ | ... | 22.6 |
| 32.89 | Allied Minds | 13¾ | +4¼ | ... | -1.2 |
| 196.67 | Aptitude Software | 343 | -20 | ... | 38.5 |
| 153.49 | Bango♦ | 200 | ... | ... | ... |
| 109.66 | BATM Adv Coms | 25⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 10.5 |
| 92.28 | Berkeley Res | 20⅝ | +⅝ | ... | -8.8 |
| 22.97 | Blackbird♦ | 6¼ | -½ | ... | -9.9 |
| 7.59 | CloudCoCo Group♦ | 1 | ... | ... | -2.5 |
| 2,823.85 | Computacenter | 2474 | +58 | ... | 15.3 |
| 49.52 | Concurrent Tech♦ | 67½ | -1½ | ... | 16.0 |
| 32.75 | Corero♦ | 6½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 523.20 | Craneware♦ | 1475 | -70 | ... | 67.2 |
| 20.05 | Crimson Tide♦ | 3 | ... | ... | 20.3 |
| 44.12 | CyanConn Hldgs♦ | 16¼ | -1¼ | ... | ... |
| 77.65 | D4t4 Solutions♦ | 195 | -10 | ... | 23.1 |
| 1.29 | DeepMatter Gp♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 3.84 | Dillistone Group♦ | 19½ | -½ | ... | -5.6 |
| 23.63 | EQTEC♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.3 |
| 738.73 | FDM Group | 675 | +43 | ... | 23.4 |
| 26.35 | Filtronic♦ | 12¼ | +¾ | ... | 33.1 |
| 528.18 | First Derivts♦ | 1882 | +104 | ... | ... |
| 760.02 | GB Group♦ | 301 | -4¾ | ... | 22.9 |
| 126.72 | GreshamTech‡ | 151½ | +5½ | ... | ... |
| 68.94 | Ilika♦ | 43½ | -5 | ... | ... |
| 15.92 | Ingenta♦ | 109½ | -1 | ... | 64.0 |
| 30.86 | Intercede♦ | 53 | -5 | ... | 18.2 |
| 175.15 | Iomart♦ | 158⅜ | -9¾ | ... | 17.4 |
| 189.30 | IQE♦ | 23½ | -¼ | ... | ... |
| 50.32 | K3 Business Tch♦ | 112½ | ... | ... | -1.9 |
| 5,709.40 | LG Electronics | 1447⅛ | +8 | ... | 3.8 |
| 4.50 | Location Sciences♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -2.8 |
| 1,804.83 | Micro Focus Intl | 532 | +1 | ... | -5.6 |
| 44.66 | MTI Wireless♦ | 50½ | +1 | ... | 16.8 |
| 60.62 | Nanoco Gp | 18¾ | +⅜ | ... | ... |
| 159.49 | Netcall♦ | 99½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 10.21 | Northamber♦ | 37½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1.68 | Online Blockchain♦ | 11¾ | -2¾ | ... | -6.1 |
| 119.82 | Oxford Metrics♦ | 92 | -1 | ... | 40.0 |
| 4.64 | Parity♦ | 4½ | -¼ | ... | -6.5 |
| 14.16 | Pennant Intl♦ | 38½ | -2 | ... | ... |
| 1,936.18 | Playtech | 626 | +10 | ... | 6.5 |
| 2,198.12 | QinetiQ | 379¾ | +8⅜ | ... | 29.6 |
| 72.05 | RM | 85⅞ | +1⅞ | ... | 17.1 |
| 8,860.34 | **Sage** | 865 | +48¾ | ... | 33.1 |
| 245.21 | Seeing Machines♦ | 5⅞ | +⅛ | ... | ... |
| 14.89 | Shearwater Grp♦ | 62½ | ... | ... | 38.7 |
| 12.88 | Smartspace S'ware♦ | 44½ | -9½ | ... | -4.6 |
| 2,731.65 | Softcat‡ | 1369 | +47 | ... | 26.8 |
| 1,107.82 | Spirent Comms | 184 | +6⅛ | ... | 17.1 |
| 97.12 | SRT Marine♦ | 53½ | +8½ | ... | ... |
| 13,016.08 | Tele. Ericsson | 423⅝ | +12⅛ | ... | 7.7 |
| 8.26 | Touchstar♦ | 97½ | +2½ | ... | ... |
| 290.36 | Tracsis♦ | 970 | -10 | ... | ... |
| 8.00 | Trakm8♦ | 16 | -1 | ... | ... |
| 26.53 | Triad Grp | 160 | +7 | ... | 17.5 |
| 880.27 | Wandisco♦# | 1310 | ... | ... | ... |
| 95.76 | Water Intel♦ | 445 | -2½ | ... | 24.4 |
| 139.63 | Xaar | 178 | -5 | ... | ... |
| 6.67 | Yourgene♦ | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 131.98 | Zoo Digital♦ | 135 | -½ | ... | ... |

## Telecoms

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50.21 | AdEPT Technology♦‡ | 200½ | +1½ | ... | ... |
| 4,359.46 | **Airtel Africa** | 116 | +⅞ | ... | 10.3 |
| 14,396.69 | **BT Group** | 144⅞ | -7⅜ | ... | 14.0 |
| 625.69 | Currys plc | 55⅛ | -¾ | ... | 2.6 |
| 1,121.66 | Gamma Comms♦ | 1158 | -6 | ... | 20.9 |
| 991.67 | Helios Towers | 94⅜ | +2⅜ | ... | -8.5 |
| 3,248.90 | Just Eat T'away | 1477 | ... | ... | -3.1 |
| 4.59 | Mobile Streams♦ | ... | ... | ... | -1.5 |
| 7.31 | Mobile Tornado♦ | 1¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 1,384.11 | Telecom Plus | 1742 | -50 | ... | 44.6 |
| 22,429.51 | **Vodafone** | 83 | -6¾ | ... | ... |

## Transport

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99.43 | Braemar Ship | 302 | +16 | ... | 10.0 |
| 3,805.16 | EasyJet | 502 | +13⅛ | ... | -3.1 |
| 53.32 | Esken Limited | 5⅛ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 824.36 | FirstGroup | 116 | -⅜ | ... | 27.6 |
| 186.48 | Fisher (James) | 370 | +12 | ... | -6.7 |
| 7,786.49 | **International Airlines** | 157¼ | +2⅜ | ... | -3.4 |
| 1,954.46 | IDS | 204⅜ | -23½ | ... | 2.3 |
| 690.34 | Irish Cont Uts‡ | 404 | ... | ... | ... |
| 2,634.14 | Jet2♦ | 1227 | -8 | ... | -6.5 |
| 726.46 | Natl Express | 118¼ | +1¼ | ... | -7.0 |
| 302.71 | Ocean Wilson‡ | 856 | -44 | ... | 4.3 |
| 588.37 | Stagecoach | 104⅝ | ... | ... | 14.7 |
| 28.59 | Sutton Harbour♦ | 22 | ... | ... | ... |
| 270.26 | Wincanton | 217 | -½ | ... | 5.9 |
| 3,042.72 | Wizz Air | 2946 | -63 | ... | -6.6 |

## Utilities

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6,634.49 | **Centrica** | 117⅛ | +2⅜ | ... | 11.8 |
| 1,658.27 | ContourGlobal | 251 | +½ | ... | 28.3 |
| 2,498.52 | Drax Group‡ | 622⅜ | +22¾ | ... | 46.1 |
| 146.15 | Jersey Electricity | 477 | +13 | ... | 9.0 |
| 40,568.62 | **National Grid** | 1103 | -59 | ... | 25.7 |
| 31.86 | OPG Power♦ | 7⅞ | -⅛ | ... | 5.1 |
| 2,159.73 | Pennon | 826½ | -23 | ... | 59.8 |
| 2.53 | Rurelec♦ | ⅜ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 7,076.57 | **Severn Trent** | 2813 | -120 | ... | ... |
| 20,367.48 | **SSE** | 1868 | -21½ | ... | 7.3 |
| 7,098.46 | **United Utilities** | 1041 | -36 | ... | 95.5 |

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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# Register

Obituary

# Martin Amis

## Waspish author who was lauded as the cleverest writer of his generation but often derided by critics

The trouble with being a self-consciously fin de siècle, apocalyptic writer is what you do after the new century has begun and the world is still there. Martin Amis, whose transition from enfant terrible of the literary world to — depending on one's point of view — a controversial man of letters or terrible old bore, took more than 30 angst-filled years to complete, never quite came to terms with the ordinary. He may have been rich and famous, with homes in the most favoured districts of London and New York, but his mental address remained Desolation Row.

Amid success and literary achievement, he seemed to invite disquietude. Thus, both the rape and murder of his cousin Lucy Partington by the serial killer Fred West, and the discovery, when he was 47, that he had a lost daughter, Delilah, aged 19, seemed of a piece with his dislocated history.

Until the turn of the century, after which he began to fade, as a novelist at least, Amis was rarely out of the spotlight. His writing career, beginning with the publication of *The Rachel Papers* in 1973, was marked by a distinct authorial hauteur. Critics and the reading public loved him or hated him. They did not ignore him. Even as his idiosyncratic output grew increasingly predictable, he remained respected for the high intelligence he brought to his work and for the fierce energy with which he defended his point of view.

### Mine aren't books that produce a consensus. It's why I don't win prizes

"This is what you tell yourself when you're being beaten up — that you arouse passions in readers," he said. "But I think I do. Mine aren't the sort of books that produce a consensus. It's why I don't win prizes."

His was the most distinctive, some would say, arrogant, novelistic voice to come out of England in the 1980s, a view that was reinforced by his haughty, supercilious expression in photographs that friends of Amis claimed was not a true picture of the actual man.

*Money*, published in 1984, was a bleak, yet magisterial landmark in the Thatcher years — a rebuke to everything the Iron Lady had, as Amis saw it, helped to release into the world. *London Fields* (1989) portrayed a city in which the worst, as well as the best, had lost all conviction — and murder could be embraced as a means of escape from the turpitude of contemporary values.

Few of his generation of writers in England attempted so comprehensive an analysis of social decay in the postmodern world. Even fewer enjoyed the degree of global acclaim that he achieved, most obviously in America. Amis's subject matter was unforgiving: the degradation of individual values and the incorporation of greed, indifference and cruelty into public morality. But so intense was his focus, and so forensic the methodology he brought to his task, that each novel revealed some new facet of his ever-darkening Weltanschauung.

Some thought him misanthropic, but it would probably be truer to say that he was disappointed and depressed by traits in society that, in his opinion, more and more held sway. He could see beauty and virtue lurking jointly in the shadows. He could also appreciate the rich comedy of life and the poignancy of its pretences. Yet, in the end, his was a pessimistic outlook, holding that personal progress was necessarily finite and insignificant while the universe itself, unmoved by any guiding hand, moved ineluctably towards chaos and destruction.

His life from his earliest years was frequently punctuated by emotional intrusions, a fact of which he was acutely aware. As the son of Kingsley Amis, he grew up in the long shadow of a writer whose intemperance, intermittent hostility and monumental ego tested him well into his maturity. His later childhood was deeply insecure. His parents separated when he was 14. His education was rescued from ruin only at the last moment. Later, having achieved celebrity, he found himself the object of endless media speculation, centring on his love life, his children, his wealth, even his teeth. By the time he abandoned London for America at the end of the 1990s, his need for a quiet, more reflective life, based around family and friends, was palpable.

Martin Louis Amis was born in Oxford in 1949. His father was working his way through a research grant at the university and had rented a cottage in the nearby village of Eynsham. His mother, Hilly (née Bardwell), a former student at the Ruskin School of Art, had given birth to his brother, Philip, a year before and would later produce a sister, Sally. The family had little money and his father accepted a teaching post at University College, Swansea, where he would derive the experiences that inspired his early masterpiece, *Lucky Jim*.

Martin was at once a moody and an outgoing child. He was obviously intelligent, but wayward, taking up smoking before he was ten.



Amis in 1995 with his second wife, Isabel Fonseca, a New York-born writer with whom he had two children

Kingsley, in his own way, was a loving father, certainly no brute. His problem was that he was preoccupied with his writing and his various adult relationships and devoted little attention to his children each day.

In *Experience*, Martin's acclaimed memoir, he maintained that his childhood in Wales was idyllic, even at times "Arcadian". There was, he implied, an almost pastoral, *Cider With Rosie* quality to his early life that was to contrast sharply with his teenage years.

He attended the local school, played with his brother and their cousins and listened with growing fascination to the conversation of his father with such luminaries as the poet Philip Larkin, the novelist Anthony Powell, the critic Terence Kilmartin and the journalist Henry Fairlie — all giants in their field.

The idyll did not last. During a year in New Jersey, where Kingsley was a visiting fellow at Princeton, Martin, aged nine, was "interfered with" by an unknown stranger at a party. Then, in 1962, his world collapsed. Kingsley became infatuated with the fellow novelist Elizabeth Jane Howard, beginning an intense relationship that was to last well beyond their divorce years after. Martin was shocked. His mother took the children to a villa in Majorca that their father had already rented for an experimental year abroad, hoping that her husband would follow. He did not.

Martin, along with Philip and Sally, was now passed around. Jane Howard would later write that Kingsley was almost Victorian in his absence from the lives of his children. All matters of education and discipline were left up to her, she said, while the great man retired to his study "with a clinking glass".



Amis, right, with his parents, Kingsley and Hilly, and two siblings

Martin's education suffered. He moved from school to school — taking time off in one case to play a role in the film *A High Wind in Jamaica* — and being expelled from Battersea Grammar School for serial truancy. It was only after he had attended no fewer than 14 establishments that he finally made it through to A-levels, and entrance to Oxford, winning an exhibition to Exeter College via a "crammer" in Brighton.

Oxford, as is so often the case, proved a revelation. Reading English, he discovered not only that he possessed a genuine academic bent but that, in spite of his short stature (he was only 5ft 6in) — he had a near-mesmeric impact on women. Deploying his obvious intelligence and wit, delivered in an improbable baritone drawl, he cut an early swathe through Oxford, notably enjoying a passionate affair with Tina Brown, already a celebrity journalist. Tutored by the critic Jonathan Wordsworth, he gained a congratulatory first, an unusual honour in which the examiners applaud the student, in 1971 and was immediately hired by The Observer to write reviews. Other writing jobs quickly followed, as poetry editor at the Times Literary Supplement and as literary editor of The New Statesman, where he worked alongside the future novelist Julian Barnes, the poet James Fenton and his lifelong friend, Christopher Hitchens.

It was at the Statesman that he began work on fiction. "I started writing out of a sense of wanting to join the dance," he told Sue Lawley on *Desert Island Discs* in 1996. "What is being redeemed is the formlessness of life. It would be intolerable to me to just be a passive liver of my life. It's only when you write that you can impose form and pattern and humour, comedy. Otherwise the stuff itself would strike me as unendurably thin."

His first novel *The Rachel Papers* was a comic work of picaresque, teenage sexuality, which won the Somerset Maugham prize. Media interest in the event was inevitably considerable; reviewers, however, were agreed that a real, if raw, talent had been uncovered, quite distinct from that of his father, who would later say of Martin's writing, "I admire his intelligence and discipline, but there's a terrible compulsive vividness about his style … that constant demonstrating of his command of English."

*Dead Babies*, which followed in 1975, was a much darker work, telling of a weekend in the country endured by a sexually eclectic group of young people drawn from Britain and the US. In keeping with Amis's recurring failure to break through into the movies, it was filmed 25 years later, to near-universal indifference. The Guardian's take was particularly cutting. *Dead Babies* — billed in the US as *Mood Swingers* — was, wrote the reviewer, "boring, embarrassing, nasty and stupid — and not in a good way".




Amis at home in Kensington in 1981.

Of the books that followed, the best were *Money* and *London Fields*. The character of John Self, the protagonist of *Money*, is one of which Dickens might have been proud. And the story of an advertising executive trying to make a film with American financing was partly inspired by Amis's bruising experience of trying to become screenwriter in America. Arrogant, self-centred, greedy, impulsive, cowardly, but above all confused, Self is our guide to New York as the New Jerusalem of the kingdom of Mammon in an era-defining work that was included in Time magazine's 100 best English language novels between 1923 and 2005.

In *London Fields* (1989) the character of Nicola Six as the "murderee", living a futile life in the wake of learning about her impending death, is too thin a personality for the weight of symbolism imposed on her. But the vivid portrait of London as a kind of city of the dead survives the black burlesque that makes up much of the narrative. Yet the novel reportedly failed to make the Booker shortlist because of criticisms from jury members of his portrayal of female characters as shallow.

The influence of Saul Bellow — a friend and mentor — and Vladimir Nabokov has often been alluded to by critics, and admitted by the author. Yet




His portrayals of social decay and greed in Money (1984) and London Fields (1989) were among his most powerful work

Amis's was a unique voice, in which fear of nuclear obliteration and the remorseless ticking of the clock, more than the uncertainties of human relations, were preoccupations.

Of his other works, *Success* (1978), dealing with sibling rivalry and careers, was perhaps his least controversial and most accessible. *Time's Arrow* (1991) was a macabre tour de force, in which the progress of the Holocaust is told, literally, in reverse, from Auschwitz to Kristallnacht, as it were, so that the heart of darkness to which everything is headed is there right from the start, casting its shadow over earlier acts of innocence. It was the only one of his novels to be shortlisted for the Booker prize and was not a commercial success.

As the 21st century dawned, Amis's creativity continued to decline, leaving him full of ideas, and dread, but straining to find the means to express either in ways that attracted a new generation of readers. *Koba the Dread* (2002) was written as an attack on the crimes of Lenin and Stalin but very nearly caused a rift with "Hitch", his bosom pal, whom he accused of having sympathies with the monsters of Soviet communism. He was fortunate in that Hitchens, while resentful of the charge, was not prepared to let it jeopardise their friendship, which continued, according to Amis, as "a love whose month is ever May", until the essayist's death from throat cancer in 2011.

*Yellow Dog* (2003), mired in violence and pornography, was considered by Amis to be one of his best but was generally regarded as a disappointment, prompting a response notable for its sense of injured pride: "No one," he rasped, "wants to read a difficult literary novel or deal with a prose style which reminds them how thick they are."

## He was heartbroken when his sister, Sally, drank herself to death

Seemingly undeterred by the reception afforded to *Koba the Dread* — or Koba the Barbarian as one wag called it — Amis returned to the evils of Stalinism in *House of Meetings* (2006), a novel that, while set in the gulags, arguably prefigured the era of Vladimir Putin. This was better received by the critics. *Inside Story* (2020) was his quasi-autobiographical, semi-fictional follow-up to *Experience*. Filled with regret for lost loves and an awareness of his own mortality, it can be seen today as "A Farewell to Amis", the final full stop in a writing career that lasted for nearly half a century.

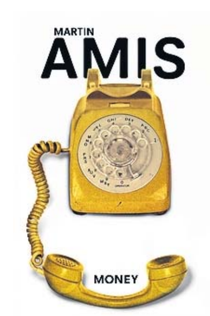
While Amis's popularity waned, his wealth grew. In 1995, during a period marked almost as much by playing tennis and snooker as by literary achievement, he dismissed Pat Kavanagh, his longstanding agent, in favour of an American, Andrew Wylie (the "Jackal"), who secured him an advance of £500,000 for *The Information* and a book of short stories. His break with Kavanagh proved traumatic, for she was married to Barnes, and Barnes at once declared war on his old friend, opening a rift between them that, unlike with Hitchens, would never truly heal.

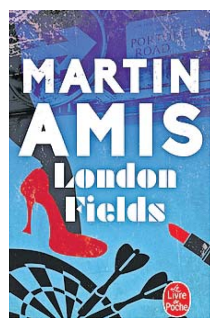
Amis's first marriage to the wildlife artist Antonia Phillips in 1984 ended in divorce in 1996. He then married the New York-born Uruguayan writer Isabel Fonseca. After he garnered more headlines for spending a small fortune on reconstructing his dilapidated teeth, it came as no surprise when Amis announced he had fallen out of love with England and was setting off for a new life in Uruguay.

Fonseca, the scion of a family of successful artists, who became a novelist in her own right, proved to be the perfect partner for Amis, who found in her the stability entirely lacking in his own background. If she brought him peace, he gave her intrigue. "Martin is not a hard person to be married to," she said in 2010. "He's very calm, even-tempered. I think he's a mystery. Maybe that's good, though."

In the midst of new-found tranquillity, the past never quite stopped intruding. More controversy came with the discovery in 1997 that Amis had a long-lost daughter, Delilah, by an old flame, Lamorna Heath, at the time (the 1970s) estranged from her husband, the writer Patrick Seale. Delilah's mother committed suicide some time after her affair with Amis, and Delilah was raised by Seale. Father and daughter were introduced, over dinner, when she was already a student at Oxford. Amis declared that he felt an immediate sense of intimacy. It was, he wrote, "wonderful".

But, balancing the "find" of his daughter came confirmation of the loss of his cousin and childhood confidante, Lucy Partington, missing since December 1973. It had been suspected for some time that Lucy was a victim of West, but for Amis, West's trial and the memorial service were extremely painful. However, some accused him of capitalising on her murder by exaggerating her role in his childhood in his memoir, *Experience*.




The reception accorded to *Experience* on both sides of the Atlantic was gratifying to its author after several years of critical indifference. Kaleidoscopic and thematic by turn, it revealed a more mellow side to the artist — someone, perhaps, who was settling contentedly into his new life in exile as a husband and father, and who drew great pleasure from the simple pleasures of listening to jazz and watching tennis and football on television.

With the death, in 1995, of Kingsley, to whom he had for some time been warmly reconciled, Martin felt himself propelled into the "temporal front line". It was a position from which he did not recoil.

Amis's final years, divided between London and, latterly, New York, were not without incident. He had been much moved by the events of 9/11, and subsequently, like Hitchens, displayed a contempt for militant Islam and jihadism that did not endear him to certain strands of liberal opinion. The threat of nuclear war and the annihilation of humankind was another recurring theme. By now he was happily married, with two young daughters, and regarded the prospect of Armageddon as a personal as well as an existential affront. As a born-again husband and father, he was further shaken in 2017 by a fire that nearly destroyed the family home in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, valued at the time at a little under $5 million.

Earlier, in November 2000, he was heartbroken when his younger sister, Sally, drank herself to death in a council bedsit in north London, aged 46. They had been close in their childhood, but Sally — the inspiration (if that is the word) for his 2010 novel *The Pregnant Widow* — was wayward, with no clear acceptance of limits and lived a reckless life, "as though on the stage," before descending into alcoholism.

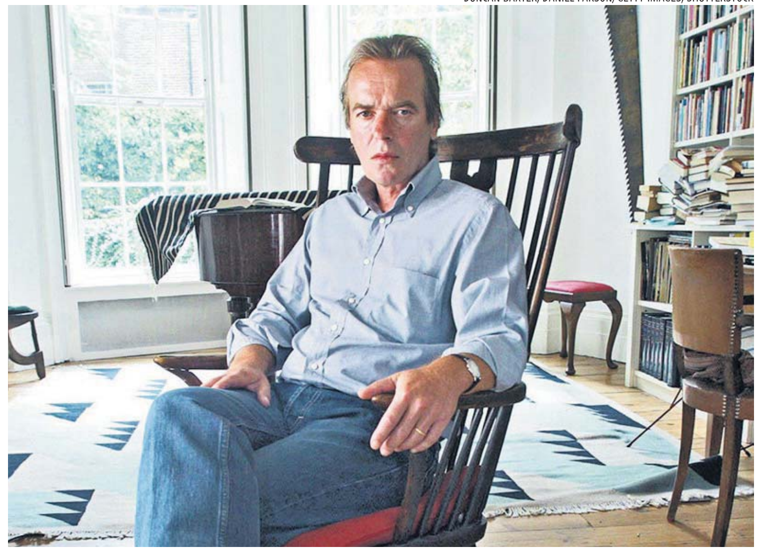
Amis had two sons by his first wife. Both are writers. Louis is a journalist and sometime novelist, based in Las Vegas; Jacob is a political commentator, with links to the Hudson Institute. In addition to Delilah Seale, Amis had two daughters by his second wife — Fernanda, a lawyer and academic, and her younger sister, Clio, born in 1999. They survive him.

After the extremely adverse reception of *Yellow Dog*, Amis commented: "As you get older you realise that all these things — prizes, reviews, advances, readers — it's all showbiz, and the real action starts with your obituary.

"Writers don't realise how good they are because they are dead when the action begins: with the obituaries. And then the truth is revealed 50 years later by how many of your books are read. You feel the honour of being judged by something that is never wrong: time."

**Martin Amis, novelist, was born on August 25, 1949. He died of oesophageal cancer on May 19, 2023, aged 73**

DUNCAN BAXTER, DANIEL FARSON/GETTY IMAGES, SHUTTERSTOCK



Amis in London in 2003. He divided his time between England and New York as he got older, and his 2000 memoir, Experience, revealed a more mellow side

Register

## Law Report

# Change to early release provisions relating to terrorist prisoners was not retroactive penalty

**Supreme Court**
Published May 22, 2023

**Morgan and others v Ministry of Justice**

Before Lord Reed, Lord Sales, Lord Hamblen, Lord Burrows and Lord Stephens
[2023] UKSC 14
Judgment April 19, 2023

Legislation which had the effect of increasing the proportion of a prison sentence that prisoners convicted of terrorist offences would have to serve before being released on licence, from the one half set by the sentencing judge to at least two thirds, did not retroactively increase the penalty imposed on them.

The Supreme Court so held in allowing the appeal of the Ministry of Justice and dismissing the cross-appeal of the prisoners, Seamus Morgan, Terence Marks, Kevin John Paul Heaney and Joseph Matthew Lynch, from a decision of the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland (Lord Justice Treacy, Lord Justice Maguire and Mr Justice Horner) ([2021] NICA 67) concerning prison sentences imposed on them by Mr Justice Colton in the Crown Court at Belfast ([2020] NICC 14) after their pleas of guilty to various terrorist offences.

**James Eadie KC**, **Tony McGleenan KC**, **Philip McAteer** and **Jason Pobjoy** for the Ministry of Justice; **John Larkin KC** and **Terence McCleave** for Morgan and Marks; **Ronan Lavery KC** and **Bobbie Rea** for Heaney; **Barry MacDonald KC** and **Joseph O'Keeffe** for Lynch; **Ciaran Murphy KC**, **Samuel Magee KC** and **David Russell** for the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland, an interested party.

LORD STEPHENS, with whom the other members of the court agreed, said that the issue on the appeal was whether the enactment of section 30 of the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021, which inserted article 20A into the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 (SI 2008 No 1216 (NI 1)), was a measure that fell within the scope of the prohibition of the retroactive application of penalties under article 7(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The prisoners had each been sentenced to determinate custodial sentences for terrorist offences. Under article 8 of the 2008 Order, the judge specified custodial periods in respect of each of the prisoners as being one half of the term of their sentences with the effect that as soon as the prisoners had served the custodial period the Department of Justice was required to release the prisoners on licence.

However, the new article 20A of the 2008 Order restricted early release for prisoners serving fixed-term sentences for certain terrorist offences, known as "terrorist prisoners".

Its effect as it applied to the present prisoners, who were all then serving their determinate custodial sentences, was that instead of being automatically released on licence without reference to the Parole Commissioners at the halfway points of their sentences, their cases would be referred at the two-thirds point to the Parole Commissioners, which would not direct their release on licence unless satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoners should be confined.

The fundamental issue under article 7(1) of the Convention was whether the measures taken by the legislature in enacting section 30 of the 2021 Act, which inserted article 20A into the 2008 Order (the measures), redefined or modified the scope of the penalty imposed on the prisoners by the judge, or whether the measures changed the manner of execution or enforcement of the penalties which had been imposed.

In addressing that issue, it was appropriate to ask two questions. First, what were the penalties imposed on the prisoners by the judge? Second, did the measures redefine or modify the scope of the penalty imposed on the prisoners?

The answer to the first question, as a matter of domestic law and within the European Court of Human Rights' autonomous concept of a penalty, was that the penalties were the determinate custodial sentences imposed on the prisoners.

By specifying the custodial periods under article 8 of the 2008 Order, the judge did not alter the scope of the penalties imposed on the prisoners. Rather, the determinate custodial sentences were the only penalties imposed on each of the prisoners.

The answer to the second question was that the measures did not redefine or modify the scope of the penalties imposed on the prisoners, namely their determinate custodial sentences.

The purpose of the measures was to protect the public from terrorist prisoners by confining them for a longer period under their determinate custodial sentences and then only releasing them on licence after the Parole Commissioners directed their release, being satisfied that it was no longer necessary for the protection of the public that they should be confined.

The nature of those measures was to change the manner of execution of the determinate custodial sentences by restricting the eligibility for release on licence of terrorist prisoners.

The nature and purpose of the changes brought about by the measures was not to lengthen the determinate custodial sentences imposed on the prisoners. The length of those sentences was not increased in any sense.

It was correct that the new provision increased the custodial period from a maximum of one half of the term of the applicable sentence to two thirds of the applicable sentence. However, the degree of alteration was not decisive as to whether the measures modified or adjusted the penalty imposed by the judge. Rather, the nature and purpose of the measures remained the same; namely, to permit early release. As the nature and purpose of the measures was to permit early release then the measures could not be regarded as inherently severe.

There had been no retroactive increase in the penalties imposed on the prisoners by the judge. The measures concerned exclusively the way in which the lawfully prescribed determinate custodial sentences imposed were to be executed.

There was no incompatibility between on the one hand section 30 of the 2021 Act and article 20A of the 2008 Order and on the other hand article 7(1) of the Convention.

There was a further issue as to whether the enactment of the measures breached the quality of law requirement in article 5(1) of the Convention under which a national law authorising deprivation of liberty had to be sufficiently accessible, precise, and foreseeable in its application to avoid all risk of arbitrariness.

The qualitative requirements in respect of "law" in article 7 of the Convention applied to (a) the offence with which the offender was charged and (b) the penalty imposed by the sentencing court for committing the offence. By contrast, the qualitative requirement in respect of "law" in article 5 applied to the resulting detention. Measures relating to the execution of a sentence could affect the right to liberty protected by article 5 of the Convention.

Accordingly, the distinction between the penalty and execution of the penalty was not decisive in connection with article 5(1)(a). In other words, while a measure which affected the execution of a penalty was not subject to the qualitative requirements under article 7 of the Convention, where the same measure involved a detention or deprivation of liberty, the measure would be subject to the qualitative requirements of "law" under article 5 of the Convention.

The change in the regime for the release on licence of the prisoners met the qualitative requirements of "lawfulness" in article 5(1)(a) in respect of their detention, for several reasons.

First, the terms of the sentences imposed on the prisoners were calculated without account being taken of the early release provisions under articles 8 and 17 of the 2008 Order.

Second, the lawfulness of the prisoners' detention was decided for the duration of the whole sentence, by the determinate custodial sentences imposed by the judge.

Third, the fact that the prisoners expected to be released on licence at the halfway point did not affect the analysis that the determinate custodial sentences provided legal authority for their detention throughout the terms of the sentences imposed.

Fourth, it was entirely foreseeable, if necessary with appropriate legal advice, that during the currency of a determinate custodial sentence, which was calculated and imposed without account being taken of the possibility of early release, the arrangements for the manner of execution of the sentence might be changed by policy or legislation.

The foreseeability of the potential for changes to the execution of a sentence would be informed by: (a) The fact that such changes had been made in the past; and (b) The principle that inherent in the whole of the Convention was a search for a fair balance between the demands of the general interest of the community and the requirements of the protection of the individual's fundamental rights.

Accordingly, it could be foreseen, with if necessary appropriate legal advice, that the legislature could make changes in relation to the manner of execution or enforcement of a sentence when faced, as in the present case, with compelling policy reasons supporting the change. It should be foreseen that the manner of execution of a sentence had to be able to keep pace with changing circumstance.

The changes effected by the measures, insofar as they impacted on the prisoners' detention, were in accordance with article 5 of the Convention.

Solicitors: **Crown Solicitor's Office**, Belfast; **McNamee McDonnell Solicitors**, Newry; **ML White & Co Solicitors**, Newry; **Phoenix Law**, Belfast; **Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland**, Belfast.




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THE TIMES


## Court Circular

**St James's Palace**
20th May, 2023

The Princess Royal today carried out the following engagements in New Brunswick, Canada.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), this morning attended a briefing with the Honorary and Command teams before attending a Reception at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel, 750 Main Street, Moncton.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), later attended a Freedom of the City of Moncton Parade at Moncton City Hall, 655 Main Street, Moncton.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), this afternoon visited Moncton Garrison, 299 Park Street, Moncton.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Branch, afterwards attended a Reception at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel on the occasion of their One Hundred and Twentieth Anniversary.

Her Royal Highness was invested this evening with the Canadian Order of Military Merit by the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick (Her Honour Ms Brenda Murphy), on behalf of the Governor General, at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel.

The Princess Royal later attended a Reception as Colonel-in-Chief of Her Royal Highness's Canadian Army Regiments at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel.

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), afterwards attended a Gala Dinner at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel to mark the One Hundred and Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the Regiment.

**St James's Palace**
20th May, 2023

The Duke of Kent, Patron, Newbury Spring Festival, this evening attended a Concert by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr James Puxley).

**St James's Palace**
21st May, 2023

The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's), today carried out the following engagements in New Brunswick, Canada.

Her Royal Highness this morning attended a Service at Trinity Anglican Church, 853 Main Street, Sussex, to mark the One Hundred and Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the Regiment.

The Princess Royal afterwards attended a Freedom of the Town of Sussex Parade at 66 Broad Street.

Her Royal Highness subsequently visited the Regimental Museum, 66 Broad Street, Sussex.

The Princess Royal this afternoon visited Sussex (Milton Gregg) Armouries, 9 Leonard Drive, Sussex.

Her Royal Highness this evening departed Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, Quebec, for the United Kingdom.


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## Births, Marriages and Deaths


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**GOD** is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. Psalm 46.1-2 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Deaths

**DUCKER** Toby Francis St Barbe died suddenly on 4th May 2023, aged 51, in London. Most beloved husband of Emma and adored father of Isabelle and Joshua. Donations to nya.org.uk/support-us/

**GALLAGHER**
**Pauline (née Fitzsimons) Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and formerly of Glasnevin, Dublin. Died peacefully, at home on 12th May 2023, in the care of her loving family. Predeceased by her beloved husband Charles. Loving mother of Brian, Peter, Yvonne, Charles, David, Andrew, Daniel, Avril and Matthew. Sadly missed by her loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, extended family and friends.**

**Requiescat in Pace.**

**Requiem Mass 10am Wednesday 24th May 2023. The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Foxrock, followed by burial at Shanganagh Cemetery, Shankill. For further details visit RIP.ie**

**MILLIGAN**
**Peter Ross died peacefully on 1st May 2023, aged 93. Retired group legal director of the former Reckitt & Colman. Beloved husband of Anne, dearest father of Jane and Johan, very proud grandfather of Alexander, Timothy, Edmund and Ellen. Funeral service at St Peter's Church, Rowley, Little Weighton, on Thursday 1st June 2023 at 11am. By request, no black. All inquiries to H Kemp & Son Ltd, 01482 844695.**

**TILLOTSON**
**Henry Michael (Major General CB CBE) died peacefully at home on 17th May 2023, aged 95. Much-loved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.**
**Funeral service will be held at The Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wylye, Wiltshire, on Tuesday 20th June at 2pm. Family flowers only.**

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**★Dinner & tango show×★**
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Tue 18 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina – ★Iguazú Falls★**
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. Upon arrival, transfer to a 5★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast (B)

Wed 19 — **★Iguazú Falls – Full day tour included×★**
Enjoy a full day tour of the Argentinian falls. Visiting the lower circuit, feel part of nature as you are refreshed with waterfall drizzle! Visiting the upper circuit, pause at different viewpoints before reaching the balcony at the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat), the most amazing of all the falls (B)

Thu 20 — **★Iguazú Falls – Half-day tour included×★ – Buenos Aires, Argentina**
Take the elevator down to the base of the falls and admire them from right above the river level. Next, marvel at the falls from a 1,000-metre-long footbridge or take the elevator up to the Salto Floreano viewpoint. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to a 5★ hotel‡ for your overnight stay, including breakfast (B)

Fri 21 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
After breakfast, transfer to the port and embark the brand-new ultra-luxurious *Silver Ray* for your 10 night all-inclusive voyage, starting with an overnight stay on board (B)

Sat 22 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
**★Recommended COMPLIMENTARY Excursion×: Inspiring Evita**

Sun 23 — **Montevideo, Uruguay** (depart late night)

Mon 24 — **Punta del Este, Uruguay**

Thu 27 — **Itajai, Brazil**

Fri 28 — **Ilhabela, Brazil**

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Tue 4 — **Arrive in London**

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# Weather

## Today A dry day for most with lengthy spells of sunshine, patchy rain in central Britain. Max 22C (72F), min 4C (39F)

### Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

| | Temp C midday yesterday | | Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday | Sun hr* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 11 | D | 4.6 | 0.0 |
| Aberporth | 14 | S | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Anglesey | 17 | C | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Aviemore | 11 | C | 17.0 | 0.0 |
| Barnstaple | 18 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bedford | 17 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Belfast | 12 | C | 5.0 | 0.0 |
| Birmingham | 16 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bournemouth | 18 | S | 0.0 | 6.0 |
| Bridlington | 15 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bristol | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 5.8 |
| Camborne | 15 | S | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Cardiff | 17 | S | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Edinburgh | 14 | C | 2.2 | 0.0 |
| Eskdalemuir | 14 | R | 0.4 | 2.0 |
| Glasgow | 14 | C | 8.6 | 0.0 |
| Hereford | 17 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Herstmonceux | 17 | C | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| Ipswich | 15 | C | 0.0 | 4.8 |
| Isle of Man | 15 | C | 0.0 | 3.0 |
| Isle of Wight | 18 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Jersey | 15 | PC | 0.0 | 6.7 |
| Keswick | 17 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Kinloss | 11 | C | 12.2 | 0.0 |
| Leeds | 17 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Lerwick | 11 | PC | 5.8 | 0.0 |
| Leuchars | 11 | C | 2.6 | 0.0 |
| Lincoln | 17 | S | 0.0 | 5.1 |
| Liverpool | 17 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| London | 17 | C | 0.0 | 6.4 |
| Lyneham | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 8.9 |
| Manchester | 19 | S | 0.0 | 3.5 |
| Margate | 14 | PC | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Milford Haven | 18 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Newcastle | 17 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Nottingham | 17 | S | 0.0 | 4.3 |
| Orkney | 12 | B | 8.0 | 0.2 |
| Oxford | 17 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Plymouth | 19 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Portland | 17 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Scilly, St Mary's | 15 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Shoreham | 19 | PC | 0.0 | 5.7 |
| Shrewsbury | 17 | S | 0.0 | 2.4 |
| Snowdonia | 18 | PC | 0.0 | ** |
| Southend | 17 | B | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| South Uist | 12 | S | 0.2 | ** |
| Stornoway | 12 | PC | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Tiree | 12 | S | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Whitehaven | 16 | PC | 0.0 | 3.5 |
| Wick | 11 | C | 8.0 | ** |
| Yeovilton | 17 | S | 0.0 | 5.3 |

### The world

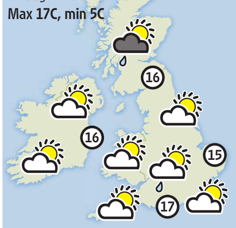
All readings local midday yesterday

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alicante | 21 | PC | Madeira | 19 | B |
| Amsterdam | 19 | PC | Madrid | 19 | S |
| Athens | 22 | PC | Malaga | 14 | R |
| Auckland | 16 | B | Mallorca | 25 | PC |
| Bahrain | 35 | S | Malta | 19 | SH |
| Bangkok | 36 | PC | Melbourne | 11 | SH |
| Barbados | 30 | SH | Mexico City | 26 | B |
| Barcelona | 19 | PC | Miami | 30 | S |
| Beijing | 26 | S | Milan | 17 | B |
| Beirut | 23 | PC | Mombasa | 28 | B |
| Belgrade | 25 | PC | Montreal | 19 | C |
| Berlin | 26 | S | Moscow | 13 | B |
| Bermuda | 24 | B | Mumbai | ** | ** |
| Bordeaux | 19 | B | Munich | 24 | S |
| Brussels | 20 | B | Nairobi | 25 | PC |
| Bucharest | 26 | PC | Naples | 21 | S |
| Budapest | 25 | S | New Orleans | 31 | S |
| Buenos Aires | 15 | S | New York | 16 | R |
| Cairo | 33 | PC | Nice | 23 | B |
| Calcutta | 35 | S | Nicosia | 25 | PC |
| Canberra | 13 | B | Oslo | 20 | S |
| Cape Town | 18 | PC | Paris | 20 | B |
| Chicago | 19 | PC | Perth | 21 | S |
| Copenhagen | 20 | PC | Prague | 22 | B |
| Corfu | 20 | B | Reykjavik | 8 | SH |
| Delhi | 41 | S | Riga | 20 | S |
| Dubai | 38 | S | Rio de Janeiro | 24 | S |
| Dublin | 16 | B | Riyadh | 36 | S |
| Faro | 20 | PC | Rome | 22 | S |
| Florence | 25 | PC | San Francisco | 17 | B |
| Frankfurt | 24 | PC | Santiago | 18 | S |
| Geneva | 20 | PC | São Paulo | 19 | S |
| Gibraltar | 17 | SH | Seoul | 18 | B |
| Helsinki | 21 | S | Seychelles | 30 | PC |
| Hong Kong | 30 | SH | Singapore | 27 | B |
| Honolulu | 28 | PC | St Petersburg | 21 | S |
| Istanbul | 19 | PC | Stockholm | 19 | S |
| Jerusalem | 27 | S | Sydney | 19 | S |
| Johannesburg | 17 | S | Tel Aviv | 27 | S |
| Kuala Lumpur | 31 | PC | Tenerife | 21 | PC |
| Kyiv | ** | ** | Tokyo | 23 | B |
| Lanzarote | 24 | PC | Vancouver | 18 | B |
| Las Palmas | 24 | B | Venice | 26 | S |
| Lima | 22 | DU | Vienna | 24 | PC |
| Lisbon | 22 | PC | Warsaw | 22 | S |
| Los Angeles | 19 | DU | Washington | 25 | B |
| Luxor | 36 | S | Zurich | 22 | S |

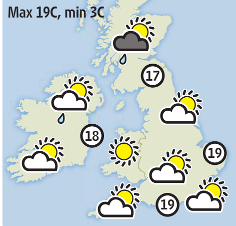
### Five days ahead

A mostly dry period with sunny spells and a chance of the odd isolated shower at times

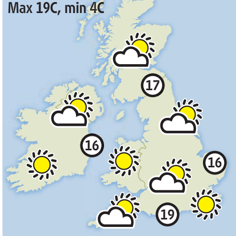
**Tomorrow**
Mainly dry with sunny intervals and a chance of the odd shower across western Scotland and central England through the afternoon.
**Max 17C, min 5C**



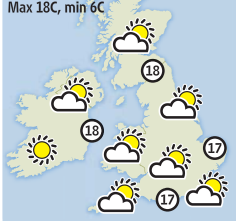

**Wednesday**
Another largely dry day with prolonged spells of sunshine and a little light rain in northwest Scotland and perhaps Northern Ireland at times.
**Max 19C, min 3C**



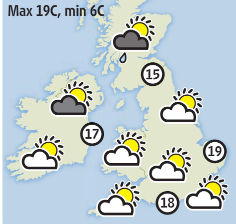

**Thursday**
Dry with the best of the sunshine in southern Ireland, Wales and southeast England through late afternoon.
**Max 19C, min 4C**




**Friday**
Mostly dry with sunny intervals and a chance of one or two isolated showers across southern Britain through the afternoon.
**Max 18C, min 6C**



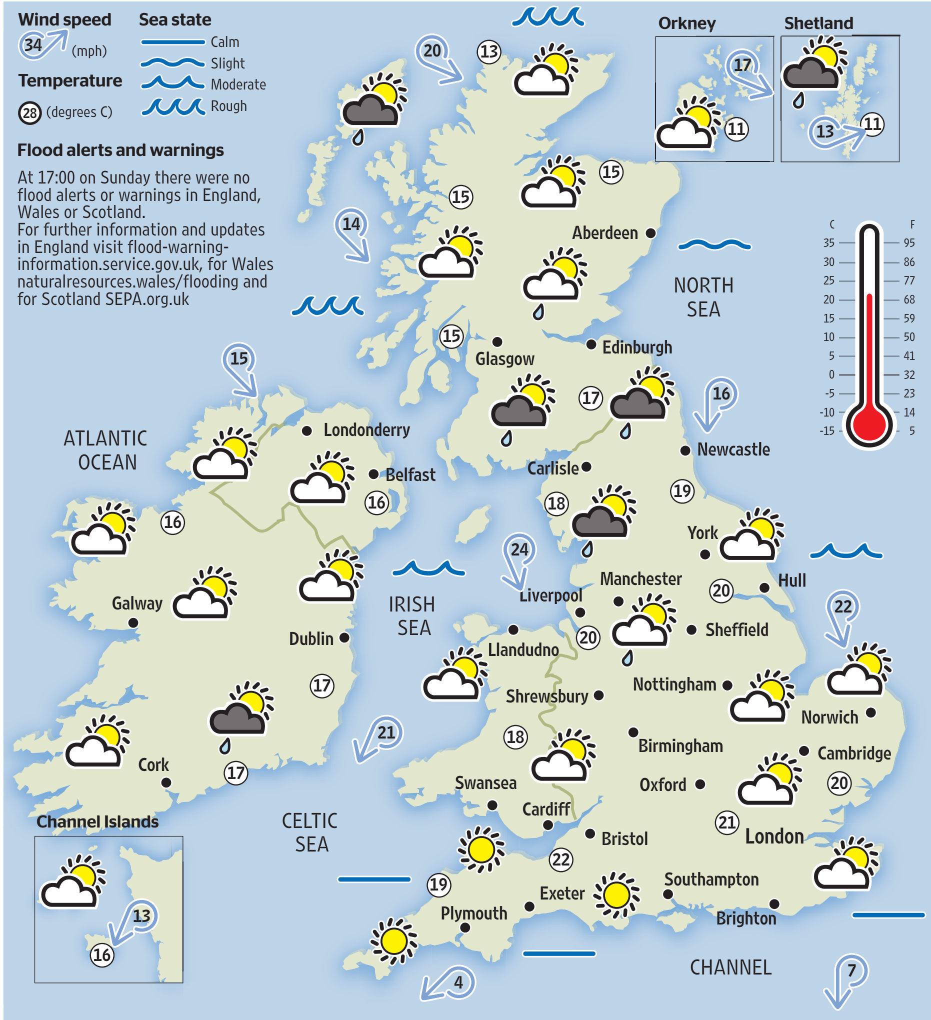

**Saturday**
Thick cloud and a few showers possible across western Scotland and Northern Ireland. Dry elsewhere with sunny spells and some patchy cloud.
**Max 19C, min 6C**




The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

**Flood alerts and warnings**

At 17:00 on Sunday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

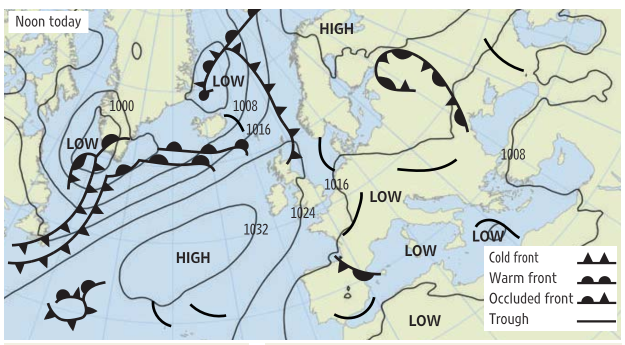



**General situation:** Patchy cloud and showery rain in central Britain, largely dry with sunny spells elsewhere.
**NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Glasgow, N Isles, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, Argyll:** A mostly dry day with sunny intervals and a chance of the odd isolated shower in the west through the morning. Light to moderate west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 15C (59F), minimum 4C (39F).
**Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** Any early showers clearing from the south to leave a dry day with lengthy spells of sunshine, perhaps turning hazy through the afternoon. Light to moderate northerly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 6C (43F).
**Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Aberdeen, Borders, NE Eng, NW Eng, Lake District:** Early mist and fog clearing to leave a day of patchy cloud and showery rain, most widespread through the early hours. Light to moderate northerly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 6C (43F).
**Wales, W Mids, SW Eng, Channel Is, IoM:** A dry day with lengthy spells of sunshine, especially in the southwest. Light to moderate northerly winds, fresh in southwest Wales. Maximum 22C (72F), minimum 7C (45F).
**London, E Anglia, Cen S Eng, SE Eng, Cen N Eng, E Eng, E Mids:** Mainly dry with sunny spells and a chance of the odd shower through early afternoon. Light to moderate northerly winds, perhaps fresh at the coast. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 7C (45F).

### Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

| Today | | Ht | | Ht |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 03:37 | 4.0 | 16:05 | 3.9 |
| Avonmouth | 09:43 | 12.3 | 21:53 | 12.3 |
| Belfast | 01:26 | 3.4 | 13:48 | 3.2 |
| Cardiff | 09:31 | 11.4 | 21:40 | 11.4 |
| Devonport | 08:10 | 5.1 | 20:17 | 5.2 |
| Dover | 01:26 | 6.5 | 13:45 | 6.4 |
| Dublin | 01:39 | 3.8 | 14:08 | 3.7 |
| Falmouth | 07:40 | 4.8 | 19:52 | 4.9 |
| Greenock | 02:36 | 3.4 | 15:11 | 3.2 |
| Harwich | 01:57 | 3.9 | 14:16 | 3.8 |
| Holyhead | --:-- | -- | 12:55 | 5.1 |
| Hull | 08:38 | 7.0 | 21:05 | 6.9 |
| Leith | 05:00 | 5.2 | 17:25 | 5.2 |
| Liverpool | 01:16 | 8.9 | 13:37 | 8.7 |
| London Bridge | 04:07 | 7.2 | 16:25 | 6.7 |
| Lowestoft | 11:59 | 2.4 | --:-- | -- |
| Milford Haven | 08:40 | 6.5 | 20:54 | 6.5 |
| Morecambe | 01:26 | 8.9 | 13:47 | 8.7 |
| Newhaven | 01:16 | 6.5 | 13:43 | 6.3 |
| Newquay | 07:31 | 6.4 | 19:45 | 6.4 |
| Oban | 08:03 | 3.6 | 20:11 | 3.7 |
| Penzance | 07:04 | 5.1 | 19:22 | 5.2 |
| Portsmouth | 01:38 | 4.5 | 14:11 | 4.5 |
| Shoreham | 01:30 | 6.0 | 13:55 | 5.9 |
| Southampton | 01:20 | 4.3 | 15:58 | 4.2 |
| Swansea | 08:47 | 8.9 | 20:58 | 8.9 |
| Tees | 05:58 | 5.2 | 18:24 | 5.1 |
| Weymouth | 09:10 | 1.9 | 21:20 | 2.0 |




### Synoptic situation

A cold front associated with a low-pressure system to the north of Iceland will bring some thicker cloud and showery rain to eastern Scotland through the early hours, turning lighter and more patchy across southern Scotland and northern England through the afternoon. High pressure will keep conditions largely dry and settled across the rest of Britain and Ireland.

### Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

**Warmest:** Porthmadog, Gwynedd, 22.3C
**Coldest:** Sennybridge, 1.3C
**Wettest:** Aviemore, Inverness-shire, 17.0mm
**Sunniest:** Lyneham, 8.9hrs*

### Sun and moon

**For Greenwich**
**Sun rises:** 04.58
**Sun sets:** 20.54
**Moon rises:** 06.21
**Moon sets:** 00.30 Tue
**First Quarter:** May 27

### Hours of darkness

| | |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 22:03-04:04 |
| Belfast | 22:03-04:35 |
| Birmingham | 21:36-04:30 |
| Cardiff | 21:37-04:40 |
| Exeter | 21:35-04:45 |
| Glasgow | 22:04-04:21 |
| Liverpool | 21:45-04:30 |
| London | 21:25-04:27 |
| Manchester | 21:43-04:26 |
| Newcastle | 21:48-04:16 |
| Norwich | 21:24-04:16 |
| Penzance | 21:40-04:55 |
| Sheffield | 21:39-04:24 |

## Weather Eye
Paul Simons



After sunset on April 23, there were high hopes of catching sight of an aurora in clear skies over parts of Europe. An intense outburst of activity from the sun was expected to set off an aurora, but what night-sky watchers in France, Poland, Denmark and Germany witnessed was something so outlandish it looked like a scene from the film *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Huge blobs of pulsating colour appeared glowing in the night sky.

A severe eruption from the sun had belched out masses of charged particles that shot at high speed before slamming into Earth's upper atmosphere, setting off a geomagnetic storm. Usually this would be expected to trigger auroras, glowing green-coloured illuminations spread across much of the sky. But the blobs of light were a much rarer phenomenon: a proton aurora, created with the help of massive electrical rings around the Earth. This is an electric circuit carrying millions of amps of current, but invisible to our eyes, unlike the famous rings around Saturn made of ice and rock. If the sun is very active it can set off powerful geomagnetic storms that trigger positively charged protons to rain down from the Earth's electric ring. That upheaval sets off a shower of electrons that react with gases in the upper atmosphere, creating an aurora that for an unknown reason tears itself apart into blobs of light.

Apart from the blobs, proton auroras also differ from typical auroras by tending to appear around sunset, possibly because the electric fields in the Earth's magnetosphere may push the protons toward Earth's dusk side, rather than the dawn side. Proton auroras also love to pulse, a sign of plasma wave activity in the Earth's ring current. And to add to their outlandish credentials, proton auroras are also sometimes accompanied by a deep red arc of light called a stable auroral red (SAR) arc, not an aurora but the glow of oxygen superheated from the ring current system, and these arcs were also seen on April 23.

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TM-PA-0523-FP

# Cautious Murray pulls out of the French Open

**Tennis**
**Elgan Alderman**

Andy Murray has withdrawn from the French Open to focus on his preparations for Wimbledon. He joins Rafael Nadal, Matteo Berrettini, Marin Cilic and Nick Kyrgios in being absent from the men's singles in Paris.

Murray, 36, had earmarked a farewell appearance at Roland Garros as one of his aims for this season. He won a Challenger event in Aix-en-Provence, beating Tommy Paul, the world No17, in the final, but at Masters 1000 level his results have been disappointing. He lost in the first round in Monte Carlo against Alex de Minaur, in Madrid against Andrea Vavassori, and in Rome against Fabio Fognini. Returning to the Challenger Tour in Bordeaux on Wednesday, he lost 6-3, 6-0 against Stan Wawrinka.

Doubts over his clay ambitions emerged early after the loss to De Minaur, which Murray called "one of the worst [defeats] of my career". "I didn't have high expectations going into the first tournament, I wasn't expecting to play amazing tennis or feel great on the court, but certainly when you put a certain level of work in and that's the performance that comes at the end of it, it's pretty demoralising," he said. "I have to have a long think about things with my team and what I do from here."

At his peak, Murray challenged for the title in Paris, reaching three semi-finals and a final between 2014 and 2017. In his latter years, after his hip-resurfacing surgery, he has prioritised the hard and grass-court slams, with only one appearance — a first-round defeat in 2020 — at the French Open.

Murray has won two matches at each of his two previous grand-slam events: last year's US Open and the Australian Open in January. He has reached the third and second rounds at the past two Wimbledon tournaments, preparing last year by playing in Surbiton and Stuttgart. The two-times Wimbledon singles champion missed The cinch Championships at Queen's Club with injury but is likely to feature next month.

Murray was a long shot to challenge for the title at Roland Garros, unlike Nadal who has won the men's singles 14 times there. Nadal, also 36, succumbed to a hip injury and will miss his favourite grand-slam event for the first time since 2004. He announced last week that he would retire next year.

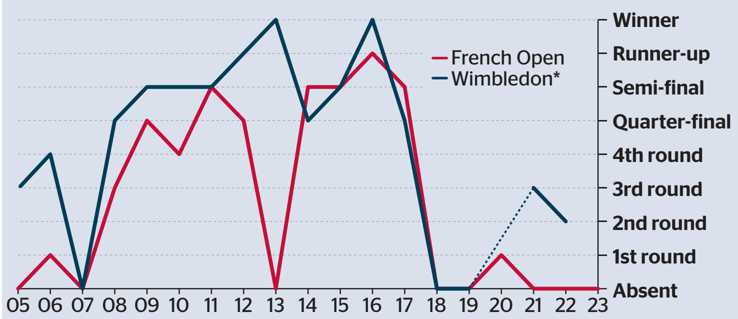
Novak Djokovic will be the favourite to win a 23rd grand-slam title at the French Open, which begins next Monday, and move clear of Nadal in the all-time list. He has twice won in Paris, beating Murray in 2016 and Stefanos Tsitsipas in 2021, having toppled Nadal in an epic semi-final.

Carlos Alcaraz, the world No2 who won the US Open in Djokovic's absence last year, is likely to be his main rival. Alcaraz was stunned by Fabian Marozsan of Hungary at the Italian Open last week, while Holger Rune got the better of Djokovic in the quarter-finals.

Rune, however, could not clinch the title yesterday, losing 7-5, 7-5 to Daniil Medvedev in the final — a first clay-court title for the world No3 from Russia, strengthening his credentials in Paris next week. Medvedev drew first blood in the first Rome final since 2004 not to feature Nadal or Djokovic, breaking in the 12th game to wrap up the first set.

Rune — the world No7 from Denmark and, at 20, the youngest finalist at the tournament since Nadal 17 years ago — broke to love in the first game of the second set but seemed to run out of steam as Medvedev closed out victory.

**Murray's record at Roland Garros and Wimbledon**



*Tournament not held in 2020 due to Covid



**Murray will prioritise the grass-court season**



The Giro riders part a sea of fans up a narrow ascent during Stage 15 yesterday. Inset, Healy and Einer Rubio ride shoulder-to-shoulder

PAULINE BALLET

## Healy is denied by McNulty's late sprint

**Ben Healy missed out on a second stage win on his Grand Tour debut yesterday, but his growing reputation was not much dented (Elgan Alderman writes). On the eighth stage of the Giro d'Italia, the 22-year-old Midlander who represents Ireland broke away to ride 50km solo and win by almost two minutes. Eight days later, over 195km from Seregno to Bergamo, he was joined near the end by Brandon McNulty, who rides for UAE Team Emirates and won the sprint. Geraint Thomas came home down the field and remains second in the general classification, 68 seconds behind Bruno Armirail, who keeps the *Maglia Rosa*.**

## Results and scoreboards

### Cricket

**LV= County Championship Division One**

**Nottinghamshire v Essex**

**Trent Bridge** (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (11pts) drew with Essex (7)

**Essex** First Innings 298 (A N Cook 72, T Westley 66; B A Hutton 4 for 69)

Second Innings (overnight 199-1)

| | |
|---|---|
| A N Cook c Clarke b James | 99 |
| *T Westley c Clarke b Broad | 95 |
| D W Lawrence lbw b Mullaney | 52 |
| M J J Critchley b James | 20 |
| †A M Rossington c and b Harrison | 0 |
| S R Harmer not out | 28 |
| D A J Bracewell c Mullaney b Harrison | 4 |
| S Snater b Harrison | 18 |
| **Extras** (b 7, lb 8, nb 4) | 19 |
| **Total (8 wkts dec, 119.5 overs)** | **362** |

**Fall of wickets** 1-62, 2-219, 3-252, 4-308, 5-309, 6-319, 7-338, 8-362.
**Bowling** Broad 20-3-52-1; Hutton 8-1-14-0; Paterson 25-2-57-0; Patterson-White 27-5-87-0; James 22-6-67-3; Harrison 11.5-0-52-3; Mullaney 6-2-18-1.

**Nottinghamshire** First Innings 442 (M Montgomery 177, B T Slater 57, J M Clarke 57)

Second Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| B T Slater b S J Cook | 4 |
| H Hameed c Rossington b S J Cook | 7 |
| M Montgomery lbw b Harmer | 22 |
| †J M Clarke not out | 42 |
| L W James b Harmer | 10 |
| *S J Mullaney not out | 11 |
| **Extras** (lb 1) | 1 |
| **Total (4 wkts, 34 overs)** | **97** |

**Fall of wickets** 1-11, 2-12, 3-50, 4-70.
**Bowling** S J Cook 6-2-14-2; Porter 4-2-2-0; Harmer 13-3-58-2; Snater 3-2-9-0; Bracewell 4-1-8-0; Critchley 4-1-5-0.
**Umpires** T Lungley and S J O'Shaughnessy.

**Finished Saturday: Ageas Bowl** Hampshire 367 (J M Vince 95, L A Dawson 63; C J White 4 for 80); Northamptonshire 56 (K H D Barker 4 for 13) and 176 (Saif Zaib 57 not out; L A Dawson 6 for 61). ***Hampshire (22pts) beat Northamptonshire (3) by an innings and 135 runs***. **Lord's** Somerset 404 (G A Bartlett 121, T B Abell 77, T Kohler-Cadmore 68; R F Higgins 4 for 74); Middlesex 175 (J A Simpson 57 not out; M J Henry 5 for 45) and 216 (M D Stoneman 60; C Overton 5 for 46). ***Somerset (23pts) beat Middlesex (3) by an innings and 13 runs***. **Kia Oval** Kent 278 (J D M Evison 77 not out) and 141 (T Lawes 5 for 22); Surrey 362 (S A Abbott 78, D P Sibley 60, G A P Atkinson 55 not out; A Bhuiyan 4 for 65) and 58-0. ***Surrey (22pts) beat Kent (4) by ten wickets***.

| | P | W | L | D | Bat | Bwl | Ded | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Surrey** | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 18 | 0 | **104** |
| **Warwickshire** | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 15 | 0 | **79** |
| **Hampshire** | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 16 | 0 | **79** |
| **Notts** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 18 | 0 | **68** |
| **Somerset** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 17 | 0 | **67** |
| **Essex** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 15 | 0 | **60** |
| **Middlesex** | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 1 | **50** |
| **Lancashire** | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 0 | **46** |
| **Kent** | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 0 | **43** |
| **Northants** | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 0 | **38** |

**Division Two**

**Gloucestershire v Durham**

**Bristol** (final day of four): Durham (23pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by 125 runs

**Durham** First Innings 445 (G Clark 100, B de Leede 65, P Coughlin 59 not out, S G Borthwick 53; Z G Khan 4 for 130)

Second Innings 272-4 dec (M A Jones 121 not out, O G Robinson 67)

**Gloucestershire** First Innings 292 (B G Charlesworth 71, M S Harris 52; A Y Patel 5 for 113)

Second Innings (overnight 181-6)

| | |
|---|---|
| M S Harris not out | 122 |
| M D Taylor lbw b Patel | 12 |
| J Shaw c Potts b Patel | 44 |
| Z Akhter b Potts | 0 |
| A Singh-Dale c De Leede b Patel | 8 |
| **Extras** (b 18, lb 1, nb 8) | 27 |
| **Total (76.4 overs)** | **300** |

**Fall of wickets** 1-11, 2-11, 3-53, 4-58, 5-150, 6-174, 7-202, 8-290, 9-291.
**Bowling** Raine 16.3-3-56-1; Potts 18-4-52-3; Patel 27.4-4-96-5; Coughlin 0.3-0-0-0; De Leede 7-1-30-0; Borthwick 7-0-47-1.
**Umpires** S Shanmugam and M Newell.

**Sussex v Glamorgan**

**Hove** (final day of four): Sussex (12pts) drew with Glamorgan (7)

**Glamorgan** First Innings 123 (O E Robinson 4 for 29)

Second Innings (overnight 499-5)

| | |
|---|---|
| *K S Carlson c and b Karvelas | 192 |
| †C B Cooke c Orr b Haines | 45 |
| M G Neser b Smith | 123 |
| T van der Gugten c Carter b Karvelas | 14 |
| J A R Harris c sub b Smith | 24 |
| J P McIlroy not out | 11 |
| **Extras** (b 28, lb 15, w 9, nb 12) | 64 |
| **Total (207.5 overs)** | **737** |

**Fall of wickets** 1-91, 2-123, 3-123, 4-411, 5-474, 6-510, 7-573, 8-623, 9-666.
**Bowling** Robinson 17-6-46-1; Karvelas 37-8-106-2; Hudson-Prentice 23-1-101-0; Haines 25-7-55-1; Carson 54-8-216-2; Coles 31-6-93-2; Smith 10.5-2-55-2; Alsop 7-2-10-0; Orr 3-0-12-0.

**Sussex** First Innings 481 (J M Coles 138, S P D Smith 89, F J Hudson-Prentice 73, T J Haines 58)

Second Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| A G H Orr not out | 1 |
| A Karvelas not out | 0 |
| **Total (no wkt, 1 overs)** | **1** |

**Bowling** Labuschagne 1-0-1-0.
**Umpires** R A White and M J Saggers.

**Finished Saturday: Worcester** Leicestershire 173 (C N Ackermann 52) and 180 (J Leach 5 for 41, M J Waite 4 for 21); Worcestershire 83 (C J C Wright 5 for 32) and 274-7 (A J Hose 84, G H Roderick 59; P W A Mulder 4 for 69). ***Worcestershire (19pts) beat Leicestershire (3) by three wickets***.

| | P | W | L | D | Bat | Bwl | Ded | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Durham** | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 16 | 1 | **105** |
| **Sussex** | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 21 | 18 | 4 | **76** |
| **Worcs** | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 17 | 0 | **66** |
| **Glamorgan** | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 0 | **66** |
| **Leics** | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 0 | **63** |
| **Gloucs** | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 13 | 0 | **42** |
| **Derbyshire** | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 0 | **37** |
| **Yorkshire** | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 11 | 0 | **33** |

**Vitality Blast**

**Played Saturday: North group: Edgbaston** Derbyshire Falcons 179-5 (20 overs: W L Madsen 50), Lancashire Lightning 183-6 (19.2 overs: L W P Wells 66). ***Lancashire Lightning (2pts) won by four wickets***; Birmingham Bears 200-6 (20 overs: S R Hain 83 not out), Yorkshire Vikings 166 (19.5 overs: H J H Brookes 4 for 32). ***Birmingham Bears (2pts) won by 34 runs***.

**Charlotte Edwards Cup**

**Taunton** Thunder 154-7 (20 overs); Western Storm 155-4 (19.2 overs: H Knight 62, F Wilson 53). ***Storm (4pts) won by six wickets***. **Played Saturday: Beckenham** South East Stars 160-8 (20 overs: P Franklin 53); The Blaze 161-5 (19.2 overs: G Boyce 63 not out). ***The Blaze (4pts) won five wickets***.

**Indian Premier League**

**Wankhede** Sunrisers Hyderabad 200-5 (20 overs: M A Agarwal 83, V Sharma 69; A Madhwal 4 for 37); Mumbai Indians 201-2 (18 overs: C D Green 100 not out, R G Sharma 56). ***Mumbai (2pts) won by eight wickets***. **Bengaluru** Royal Challengers Bangalore 197-5 (20 overs: V Kohli 101 not out); Gujarat Titans 198-4 (19.1 overs: S Gill 104 not out, V Shankar 53). ***Titans (2pts) won by six wickets***.

### Cycling

**Giro d'Italia**

**Leading positions: 15th stage** (Seregno to Bergamo, 195km): 1, B McNulty (US, UAE Team Emirates) 5hr 13min 39sec; 2, B Healy (Ire, EF Education-EasyPost); 3, M Frigo (It, Israel-Premier Tech) both same time; 4, B Mollema (Neth, Trek-Segafredo) at 1min 51sec behind; 5, E Rubio (Col, Movistar) same time; 6, S Velasco (It, Astana-Qazaqstan) 2:26; 7, A Pasqualon (It, Bahrain Victorious) same time; 8, L Huys (Bel, Intermarch-Circus-Wanty) 3:10; 9, V Albanese (It, EOLO-Kometa) 4:13; 10, F Bidard (Fr, Cofidis) same time. **Overall** 1, B Armirail (Fr, Groupama-FDJ) 61:38:06; 2, G Thomas (GB, INEOS Grenadiers) at 1:08; 3, P Roglic (Slove, Jumbo-Visma) 1:10; 4, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) 1:30; 5, A Leknessund (Nor, DSM) 1:50; 6, D Caruso (It, Bahrain Victorious) 2:36; 7, L Kämna (Ger, BORA-hansgrohe) 3:02; 8, E Dunbar (Ire, Jayco-AlUla) 3:40; 9, T Arensman (Neth, INEOS Grenadiers) 3:55; 10, L De Plus (Bel, INEOS Grenadiers) 4:18.

### Golf

**Women's Aramco Team Series**

**West Palm Beach, Florida: Leaders after two rounds: 140** N Iturrioz (Sp) 67, 73. **141** C Ciganda (Sp) 72, 69; K Spilkova (Cz) 69, 72; L Duncan (Scot) 69, 72. **142** L Weaver-Wright (US) 73, 69. **143** L Ko (NZ) 73, 70; E Young (Eng) 72, 71. **144** A Lee (US) 70, 74; A Thompson (US) 71, 73. **145** C Alexander (SA) 70, 75; L Sobron (Sp) 73, 72. **146** P Bouchard (Fr) 73, 73; C Alonso (Sp) 69, 77; S Witt (Ger) 74, 72; S Schober (Austria) 73, 73; A Belac (Slove) 71, 75.

### Rugby league

**Betfred Challenge Cup: Sixth round** Castleford Tigers 8 Hull 32; Catalans Dragons 14 Warrington Wolves 16; Leeds Rhinos 14 Wigan Warriors 18; Salford Red Devils 42 Huddersfield Giants 40; York City Knights 36 London Broncos 12.

**Betfred League One** Doncaster 60 London Skolars 30; Hunslet 22 Workington Town 18; Midlands Hurricanes 14 North Wales Crusaders 42; Oldham 26 Dewsbury Rams 26; Rochdale Hornets 62 Cornwall 6.

### Rugby union

**Heineken Champions Cup final** Leinster 26 La Rochelle 27 (at Aviva Stadium, Dublin).

**Women's Allianz Premier 15s** Bristol Bears 24 Exeter Chiefs 21; DMP Sharks 0 Loughborough Lightning 74; Gloucester-Hartpury 67 Harlequins 14; Wasps 7 Sale Sharks 88; Worcester Warriors 15 Saracens 38.

### Tennis

**Internazionali BNL D'Italia**

**Rome: Finals: Men** D Medvedev (Russ) bt H Rune (Den) 7-5, 7-5. **Women** E Rybakina (Kaz) bt A Kalinina (Ukr) 6-4, 1-0 ret.

**ATP Open Parc Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**

**Lyon: First round** J P Varillas (Per) bt A Ramos-Vinolas (Sp) 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4; G Barrere (Fr) bt C Moutet (Fr) 6-4, 6-2; J Draper (GB) bt A Muller (Fr) 6-2, 6-3.

**ATP Gonet Geneva Open**

**First round** M Cecchinato (It) bt B Shelton (US) 7-5, 2-6, 6-2; C Eubanks (US) bt B Paire (Fr) 7-6 (7-2), 6-3.

**WTA Strasbourg International**

**First round** K Kanepi (Est) bt Wang Xinyu (China) 6-3, 6-2; A Blinkova bt A Hesse (Fr) 4-6, 6-0, 6-4; E Svitolina (Ukr) bt L Chirico (US) 6-4, 7-6 (7-1); J Teichmann (Switz) bt M Zanevska (Bel) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

**WTA Grand Prix Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Lalla Meryem**

**Rabat: First round** M Sherif (Egy) bt K Baindl (Ukr) 6-1, 6-3; L Jeanjean (Fr) bt G Lee (Rom) 7-6 (7-4), 5-7, 6-3.

# Sport Racing

## Windsor
Thunderer

5.00 Vespasian
5.35 Cherry Hill
6.05 Edergole's Gift
6.35 Haymaker (nap)
7.05 Golden Smile
7.35 Pride Of Nepal
8.05 Kyle Of Lochalsh
8.35 Tawtheeth

Going: good to firm — Sky Sports Racing
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best

### 5.00 Handicap (£5,312: 5f) (8 runners)
1 (8) 64060 TOLSTOY 2 S C Williams 4-9-11 L Catton (5)
2 (6) -3622 VESPASIAN 16 (P,T) S & E Crisford 4-9-11 James Doyle
3 (2) 06-30 LIL GUFF 35 D & C Kubler 4-9-9 R Kingscote
4 (5) -0412 ANTIPHON 13 (CD) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-8 T Marquand
5 (1) 30-60 GLAMOROUS BREEZE 19 (P,BF,D) C Mason 5-9-7 W Cox
6 (3) 55-02 FAUSTUS 7 (P,D) R Cowell 5-9-6 W Buick
7 (7) 3041- WHATS IN THE BAG 331 (H,CD) R Teal 4-9-3 N Callan
8 (4) 10-50 LA ROCA DEL FUEGO 19 (CD) G Deacon 7-9-0 Rose Dawes (5)

11-4 Vespasian, 7-2 Faustus, 5-1 Antiphon, 6-1 Glamorous Breeze, 8-1 Whats In The Bag, Tolstoy, Lil Guff, 20-1 La Roca Del Fuego.

**Thunderer's choice: Vespasian** ran well behind Great State at Thirsk last time **Dangers:** Antiphon, Faustus

### 5.35 Maiden Stakes
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £6,426: 6f) (10)
1 (7) 4 BETWEEN ME AND U 28 I Furtado 9-7 L Morris
2 (2) BITS AND BOBS A Balding 9-7 D Probert
3 (3) MONKS MEAD M Usher 9-7 W Cox
4 (1) PERFECT VIEW (H) G Scott 9-7 B Sayette (3)
5 (9) CHERRY HILL D F Davis 9-2 N Callan
6 (8) DUELY SPICED G Kelleway 9-2 S Osborne
7 (10) EVASION J Portman 9-2 R Hornby
8 (5) 3 MISTRESS TEITE 35 A West 9-2 C Bennett
9 (4) ORANGE ROSETTA L Dace 9-2 K O'Neill
10 (6) QUEUES LIKELY J S Moore 9-2 David Egan

5-2 Mistress Teite, 4-1 Between Me And U, 9-2 Bits And Bobs, 13-2 Perfect View, 8-1 Cherry Hill, 12-1 Duely Spiced, 14-1 Evasion, Queues Likely.

**Thunderer's choice: Cherry Hill's** trainer is 5/16 with his two-year-olds this season **Dangers:** Queues Likely, Duely Spiced

### 6.05 Maiden Stakes
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £6,426: 6f) (9)
1 (1) AMANCIO Jack Channon 9-7 C Bishop
2 (4) KENTO Tom Clover 9-7 J Mitchell
3 (3) 640 MIST OF LIR 21 (P) Miss A Murphy 9-7 David Egan
4 (6) 2 TOO MUCH TREVOR 23 Alice Haynes 9-7 K O'Neill
5 (7) CRY FICTION J Portman 9-2 R Hornby
6 (5) EDERGOLE'S GIFT C Allen 9-2 S M Levey
7 (8) KISS AND RUN R Cook & J Bridger 9-2 R Clutterbuck
8 (9) LADY AVA E Dunlop 9-2 T Marquand
9 (2) 0 TILIANA 40 G Kelleway 9-2 D O'Neill

5-2 Too Much Trevor, 4-1 Lady Ava, 5-1 Amancio, 7-1 Kento, 8-1 Edergole's Gift, Mist Of Lir, 10-1 Cry Fiction, 14-1 Tiliana, 33-1 Kiss And Run.

**Thunderer's choice: Edergole's Gift** makes as much appeal on pedigree and gets the nod **Dangers:** Kento, Lady Av

### 6.35 Handicap (£9,936: 6f) (10)
1 (4) 0110- LETHAL NYMPH 226 (D) C Cox 4-10-10 A Kirby
2 (10) 140-5 WATCHYA 86 (D) G Baker 4-9-9 N Callan
3 (9) 06-00 BLACKROD 16 (D) R Teal 5-9-8 T Marquand
4 (7) 10-61 SPANISH STAR 17 (D) P Chamings 8-9-4 D Probert
5 (5) -0160 MAY SONIC 66 (CD) C Hills 7-9-2 W Buick
6 (2) 0-613 INDIAN CREEK 11 (BF,CD) Jack Channon 6-9-0 Rose Dawes (5)
7 (6) 0613- BEAR PROFIT 240 (BF,D) S C Williams 4-8-13 S M Levey
8 (3) 153-3 HAYMAKER 31 (D) H Morrison 4-8-13 R Hornby
9 (1) 1-001 COUNT OTTO 80 (H,D) A Perrett 8-8-12 J Crowley
10 (8) 23-06 ZERO CARBON 19 (D) R Hughes 4-8-8 David Egan

4-1 Haymaker, 11-2 Indian Creak, 13-2 Lethal Nymph, Spanish Star, 8-1 Watchya, Bear Profit, Count Otto, Zero Carbon.

**Thunderer's choice: Haymaker** made an encouraging return when third at Newbury **Dangers:** Spanish Star, Indian Creak

### 7.05 Fillies' Stakes (£20,616: 1m) (14)
1 (11) VAGUELY REGAL J & T Gosden 4-10-0 B Sayette
2 (2) 4-3 ALICE KNYVET 138 H & R Charlton 3-9-2 James Doyle
3 (12) AZAHARA PALACE H Morrison 3-9-2 S M Levey
4 (13) 3-2 FLEURIR 14 R Varian 3-9-2 David Egan
5 (3) 3 GENTLE LIGHT 31 Sir M Stoute 3-9-2 R Kingscote
6 (10) 2- GLENCALVIE 173 R Beckett 3-9-2 R Hornby
7 (9) GOLDEN SMILE C Appleby 3-9-2 W Buick
8 (6) 4-4 HAKUNA BABE 20 W Jarvis 3-9-2 T Marquand
9 (8) 03- HIGH SPIRITED 240 H Candy 3-9-2 D O'Neill
10 (4) 0- LAKOTA LASS 177 C Hills 3-9-2 J Crowley
11 (5) 62 NOBLE SOVEREIGN 68 Sir M Todd 3-9-2 D Probert
12(14) 30- SHERBET FOUNTAIN 216 (BF) D M Simcock 3-9-2 J P Spencer
13 (7) 2- VALUE ADDED 212 R Hughes 3-9-2 A Atzeni
14 (1) 3 WIND IN YOUR SAILS 47 R Beckett 3-9-2 Rossa Ryan

6-1 Gentle Light, 13-2 Glencalvie, Golden Smile, Fleurir, 15-2 Vaguely Regal, 8-1 Alice Knyvet, 10-1 High Spirited, 12-1 others.

**Thunderer's choice: Golden Smile,** a daughter of Sea The Stars, has some smart siblings **Dangers:** Glencalvie, Gentle Light

### 7.35 Handicap (£5,653: 1m 3f) (10)
1 (1) 640-4 NOBLE MASQUERADE 14 (B,CD) E J-Houghton 6-9-10 Georgia Dobie (3)
2 (7) 6/3-4 SALIGO BAY 27 G L Moore 5-9-7 R Clutterbuck
3 (8) -0205 SILVERSCAPE 19 R Teal 4-9-6 C Howarth (5)
4 (2) 03-06 PARTY ISLAND 38 (D) D Coakley 6-9-6 G Bass (3)
5 (5) 334/0 REINA DEL MAR 18 E Walker 5-9-4 T Marquand
6 (3) 1621- TESSY LAD J138 (CD) R Hughes 4-9-4 W Buick
7 (6) 53253 LEXINGTON KNIGHT 42 (T,C) R Hannon 5-9-3 S M Levey
8 (4) 124-2 PRIDE OF NEPAL 26 (B,T,C) J Scott 5-9-3 A Atzeni
9 (9) -3310 DOWN TO THE KID 23 I Furtado 4-9-2 T Whelan
10 (10) 3056- VITALLINE 175 (P) K Burke 5-8-8 Mia Nicholls (7)

7-2 Saligo Bay, 9-2 Tessy Lad, 5-1 Lexington Knight, 6-1 Pride Of Nepal, Noble Masquerade, 10-1 Reina Del Mar, 12-1 Silverscape, 14-1 Down To The Kid.

**Thunderer's choice: Pride Of Nepal** won here last summer in first-time cheekpieces **Dangers:** Lexington Knight, Saligo Bay

### 8.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m 3f) (8)
1 (3) 23-3 OVERACTIVE 40 R Beckett 9-8 Rossa Ryan
2 (6) 056-6 RULE OF THUMB 27 D Menuisier 9-7 David Egan
3 (2) 02-33 CITY CYCLONE 20 D & C Kubler 9-6 R Kingscote
4 (1) 5-113 MIRABELLO BAY 65 (BF) J S Moore 9-6 Georgia Dobie (3)
5 (4) 504- BRAVE KNIGHT 251 Sir M Prescott 9-6 L Morris
6 (5) 155-6 BULLDOG SPIRIT 33 Charlie Johnston 9-6 J Mitchell
7 (8) 005- KYLE OF LOCHALSH 151 H Morrison 9-4 T Marquand
8 (7) 2321- HURTLE 230 (B) P & O Cole 9-4 M Tabti (7)

11-4 Brave Knight, 4-1 Hurtle, 9-2 Overactive, 5-1 Mirabello Bay, 7-1 Kyle Of Lochalsh, 8-1 City Cyclone, 14-1 Bulldog Spirit, 20-1 Rule Of Thumb.

**Thunderer's choice: Kyle Of Lochalsh** may be a different proposition up in trip **Dangers:** Mirabello Bay, City Cyclone

### 8.35 Handicap (£3,768: 1m 2f) (16)
1 (15) -0360 TROJAN TRUTH 21 E De Giles 4-9-9 T Whelan
2 (3) 60-63 LISDARRAGH 19 (C,D) D Coakley 5-9-9 H Burns (3)
3 (1) 2666- TEMUR KHAN 192 A Carroll 8-9-8 Molly Gunn (7)
4 (5) 0-050 BROAD APPEAL 52 (CD) J Portman 9-9-8 Olivia Tubb (7)
5 (16) 630-2 TAWTHEEF 30 (D) P Chamings 6-9-6 D Probert
6 (7) 060-0 DUCHESS 46 (T) J Berry 4-9-6 M Crehan (3)
7 (11) 060-1 GEARING'S POINT 13 Miss S West 5-9-6 G Bass (3)
8 (2) 1113- PRINCESS T J32 (P,T,D) N Mulholland 8-9-5 W Buick
9 (6) 1-610 STAR OF EPSOM 30 (D) P Phelan 5-9-5 P Bradley (3)
10 (4) 10423 DESTINADO 34 A Carroll 5-9-5 T Marquand
11(14) 31460 NO SUCH LUCK 9 (H,T,D) R Ingram 6-9-5 L Morris
12(12) 04-13 ELJAYTEE 20 (P,D) J Berry 5-9-3 H Davies (3)
13 (9) 05054 SUN FESTIVAL 9 (P) Joseph Parr 5-9-3 J Mitchell
14(13) 05505 LADYPACKSAPUNCH 31 G Harris 4-9-3 C Hutchinson (3)
15 (8) 00044 GLINT OF AN EYE 37 (P,T,D) J Flint 6-9-2 W Cox
16(10) 1460/ OCEAN REACH 528 R J Price 7-9-2 Gina Mangan (3)

5-1 Tawtheef, 11-2 Gearing's Point, 6-1 Princess T, 8-1 Eljaytee, 10-1 Trojan Truth, Sun Festival, 12-1 Destinado, Temur Khan.

**Thunderer's choice: Tawtheeth** is usually held up but that could be a blessing in a fast race **Dangers:** Destinado, Eljaytee

## Carlisle
Thunderer

2.00 Instant Recall
2.35 The Thin Blue Line
3.10 Papa Cocktail
3.40 Detective
4.10 Farhhfromforgotten
4.40 Inverlochy (nb)
5.15 Prince Achille

Going: good to firm-good in places — Racing TV
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

### 2.00 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £6,750: 5f) (6)
1 (1) INSTANT RECALL K R Burke 9-7 C Lee
2 (5) 3 KAOLINITE 14 S & E Crisford 9-7 C Shepherd
3 (3) MALC R Fahey 9-7 Oisin Orr
4 (2) PARSON'S MEADOW P Kirby 9-7 A Mullen
5 (6) ROCK LODGE Phillip Makin 9-7 S Gray
6 (4) TROPICAL AIR Charlie Johnston 9-7 J Fanning

7-4 Kaolinite, 11-4 Malc, 7-2 Tropical Air, 4-1 Instant Recall, 20-1 Parson's Meadow, 25-1 Rock Lodge.

### 2.35 Handicap (£6,542: 5f) (9)
1 (8) 24-46 NELSON GAY 33 (P,BF,D) M Dods 5-9-9 C Beasley
2 (7) -0012 THE THIN BLUE LINE 8 (D) K Dalgleish 5-9-9 J Fanning
3 (2) 15-12 OUR ABSENT FRIENDS 18 (T,D) T Davidson 5-9-4 P Dennis
4 (5) 50-25 HUDDLE UP 8 (D) D & N Barron 5-9-3 G Sanna (7)
5 (9) 23-00 RAMON DI LORIA 8 (D) Ewan Whillans 5-9-2 Ryan Sexton (3)
6 (1) 6-332 PRINCESS KARINE 13 (BF,D) B Smart 4-8-13 P Mulrennan
7 (4) 35046 GLORIOUS RIO 13 (P,CD) Miss Stella Barclay 6-8-10 C Shepherd
8 (3) 32521 MEWS HOUSE 13 (C,D) R Menzies 6-8-8(5ex) K Schofield (5)
9 (6) 0340- ALBEGONE 224 (P,D) T Easterby 5-8-6 D Fentiman

4-1 The Thin Blue Line, 5-1 Nelson Gay, Mews House, 11-2 Our Absent Friends, 6-1 Huddle Up, 7-1 Princess Karine, 8-1 Glorious Rio, 16-1 Albegone, Ramon Di Loria.

### 3.10 Handicap (£6,542: 6f) (7)
1 (5) -0034 WESTMORIAN 26 (D) G Tuer 4-9-9 O Stammers (3)
2 (4) -3611 PAPA COCKTAIL 23 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-7 C Shepherd
3 (3) -0403 STRAITS OF MOYLE 16 (P,CD) R Fahey 4-9-5 Oisin Orr
4 (6) 0-460 NEWYORKSTATEOFMIND 16 (D) R Carr 6-9-4 H Shaw
5 (7) 3-204 LORD ABAMA 30 (P) M Dods 4-9-2 C Beasley
6 (1) 44205 BARNEY'S BAY 26 (B,D) T Easterby 5-9-1 D Fentiman
7 (2) 20633 THAKI 14 (T,D) K Scott 6-8-10 J Fanning

15-8 Papa Cocktail, 9-2 Straits Of Moyle, 5-1 Lord Abama, 6-1 Thaki, Barney's Bay, 7-1 Westmorian, 20-1 Newyorkstateofmind.

### 3.40 Handicap (£6,542: 1m) (7)
1 (1) 52-52 WHAT'S THE STORY 8 (P,D) K Dalgleish 9-9-9 C Beasley
2 (4) 000-5 ALAZWAR 21 (P,D) A Watson 5-9-7 A Mullen
3 (6) 0361- SUCELLUS 224 (T,D) Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero 7-9-6 A Rawlinson
4 (3) 050-0 DETECTIVE 41 (P,CD) D Sayer 7-9-2 P Mulrennan
5 (5) 30060 GOBI SUNSET 7 (BF) Charlie Johnston 6-8-13 J Fanning
6 (2) 0-026 STRONGBOWE 9 (P,CD) T Easterby 7-8-12 S B Kirrane (3)
7 (7) 6-000 GAINSBOURG 28 (P,D) D Bourke 5-8-9 S Gray

9-4 What's The Story, 7-2 Alazwar, 9-2 Sucellus, 11-2 Detective, 7-1 Strongbowe, 8-1 Gobi Sunset, 20-1 Gainsbourg.

### 4.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 1m) (9)
1 (8) 50-60 SEA URCHIN 27 I Williams 9-11 B Curtis
2 (6) 60-3 HILLS OF GOLD 30 M Dods 9-11 C Beasley
3 (7) 53-4 FARHHFROMFORGOTTEN 19 K R Burke 9-10 C Lee
4 (9) 360-1 SOPHIA'S STARLIGHT 10 G Tuer 9-9 O Stammers (3)
5 (2) 400- OPTICIAN 268 T Easterby 9-8 D Fentiman
6 (1) 640-0 BOWLAND PRINCE 33 T Easterby 9-6 S B Kirrane (3)
7 (4) 42231 LEAP YEAR LAD 15 (D) K Ryan 9-4 S Gray
8 (5) 0040 RED SHIELD 33 W Coltherd 9-2 P Mulrennan
9 (3) 0-153 GONE 17 Charlie Johnston 9-2 J Fanning

5-2 Leap Year Lad, 3-1 Sophia's Starlight, 5-1 Farhhfromforgotten, 6-1 Hills Of Gold, 7-1 Gone, 14-1 Optician, 16-1 Sea Urchin, Bowland Prince, 25-1 Red Shield.

### 4.40 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 7f) (11)
1 (9) 6 THE CALTONIAN 14 Miss L Perratt 4-10-2 P Mulrennan
2 (7) 6-3 TRUEMAN 22 D O'Meara 4-10-2 D Nolan
3 (8) HAWORTH STAR R Fahey 3-9-5 Oisin Orr
4 (11) THE DARIEN SCHEME J Goldie 3-9-5 P Dennis
5 (6) 4-3 AGNES GREY 16 J J Quinn 3-9-0 B Garritty
6 (10) 5 DOLORES ABERNATHY 28 D Loughnane 3-9-0 D Costello
7 (2) 5 HOWYOULIKEMENOW 20 G Boughey 3-9-0 B Curtis
8 (1) 4-4 INVERLOCHY 26 (T) S & E Crisford 3-9-0 C Shepherd
9 (3) 50 MRS HAPPY 14 J Goldie 3-9-0 Amie Waugh (5)
10 (5) 4 NWAIRA 68 K Ryan 3-9-0 S Gray
11 (4) WOWSHESOMTHINGELSE Craig Lidster 3-9-0 W Pyle (7)

11-4 Agnes Grey, 3-1 Inverlochy, 4-1 Howyoulikemenow, 9-2 Trueman, 8-1 Nwaira, 12-1 Haworth Star, 20-1 The Darien Scheme, 25-1 others.

### 5.15 Handicap (£3,402: 1m 3f) (12)
1 (10) 2330- IOLANI J59 (P,CD) D Sayer 11-9-11 P Mulrennan
2 (2) 00-00 KINGSON 100 J Coulson 7-9-10 W Pyle (7)
3 (1) 4524- TERMONATOR 209 G Tuer 7-9-7 O Stammers (3)
4 (9) 035-0 MONROE GOLD 17 J Jardine 4-9-7 A Mullen
5 (11) 34030 GHOSTLY 19 (B) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-6 C Shepherd
6 (5) 02102 WE STILL BELIEVE 20 D Bourke 5-9-5 B Garritty
7 (8) 6U3-3 PRINCE ACHILLE 7 J O'Keeffe 4-9-4 J Garritty
8 (6) 000-4 CHIEF CRAFTSMAN 11 (P) T Easterby 9-9-3 K Schofield
9 (7) 606-0 TEAM ENDEAVOUR 31 (P) I Williams 4-9-2 B Curtis
10 (4) -0004 TOP ATTRACTION 13 C Fairhurst 6-9-0 P Dennis
11(12) -6000 SIR DOTTI 48 (E) A Crook 6-9-0 Z Wheatley (5)
12 (3) 0-005 CASSIEL 11 M Weatherer 4-9-0 C Lee

3-1 We Still Believe, 7-2 Prince Achille, 11-2 Termonator, 7-1 Iolani, 8-1 Ghostly, 10-1 Top Attraction, 12-1 Chief Craftsman, 14-1 Monroe Gold.

## Ffos Las
Thunderer

1.35 Jet Of Dreams
2.10 Whatsupwithyou
2.45 Halligator
3.20 Gwencily Berbas
3.50 Cumhacht
4.20 Beannaigh Do
4.50 Aston Martini

Going: good — Sky Sports Racing

### 1.35 Novices' Hurdle (£4,357: 2m 4f) (8)
1 2621- KING ALEXANDER 25 N Henderson 5-11-10 N De Boinville
2 0- HARRYS GAME 24 (H) J Scott 6-11-3 R Dingle
3 643- HOBBS JOY 175 N Mulholland 6-11-3 B Carver
4 00-42 JET OF DREAMS 9 (T) W Greatrex 5-11-3 Dylan Kitts (7)
5 0-4 TWILIGHT PRINCE 13 P Bowen 5-11-3 S Bowen
6 2335- COOLEENYMORE 24 R Walford 7-10-10 N Schofield
7 0636- HOUSTON CALLING 24 M Rowley 6-10-10 A Edwards
8 420U- ORANGE GINA 78 Mrs N Evans 7-10-10 Shane Quinlan (3)

5-6 King Alexander, 11-4 Jet Of Dreams, 8-1 Cooleenymore, 10-1 Hobbs Joy, 12-1 Houston Calling, 16-1 Harrys Game, 50-1 others.

### 2.10 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (7)
1 5224- WHATSUPWITHYOU 28 (P,T,D) B Pauling 9-12-2 Beau Morgan (7)
2 2/31- SHOWBUSINESS 359 (T) T Vaughan 6-11-12 A Johns
3 1PUP- STONY MAN 37 (P) G Hanmer 7-11-8 Tabitha Worsley (3)
4 15/P- INVICTUS SMART 143 (T) N Mulholland 5-11-7 H Cobden
5 4312/ CELESTIAL FORCE F9 (P,T,BF,D) Christian Williams 8-11-5 E Collier (7)
6 035-R WATERGRANGE JACK 4 (P,CD) N Mulholland 7-11-5 S Twiston-Davies
7 1544- LETTERSTON LADY 24 (BF) P Bowen 5-11-1 S Bowen

5-2 Whatsupwithyou, 7-2 Letterston Lady, 5-1 Showbusiness, Watergrange Jack, 15-2 Celestial Force, 8-1 Invictus Smart, 12-1 Stony Man.

### 2.45 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 3m) (7)
1 /122- HALLIGATOR 42 (T) K Bailey 6-12-0 D Bass
2 3/P-0 EBONY GALE 14 (T,V) P Bowen 9-11-10 S Bowen
3 062-1 SCRUM DIDDLY 8 (P,D) O Sherwood 5-11-7(7ex) B J Powell
4 /331- THE BOOLA BOSS 345 R Curtis 7-11-6 H Cobden
5 BP44- AHEAD OF THE FIELD 80 E Lavelle 8-11-5 J A Anderson (5)
6 001U- BRAGANZA BAY 44 (B) H Daly 6-10-12 S Twiston-Davies
7 3005- CHINOOK 26 Sheila Lewis 5-10-7 Sean Houlihan

11-10 Scrum Diddly, 5-2 Halligator, 6-1 The Boola Boss, 12-1 Ahead Of The Field, Braganza Bay, 14-1 Chinook, 33-1 Ebony Gale.

### 3.20 Handicap Chase (£4,859: 3m 4f) (7)
1 P6P3- AMATEUR 43 (P,CD) J Flint 10-12-1 Toby Wynne (5)
2 /P0P- NEARLY PERFECT 24 (B) N King 9-11-13 J Quinlan
3 P1P0- FAIRLAWN FLYER 24 (B,C) P Bowen 7-11-10 S Bowen
4 P0P-5 COUP DE PINCEAU 13 (B,D) Syd Hosie 11-11-8 Mr G Hiscock (7)
5 1330- GWENCILY BERBAS 33 (B) D Pipe 12-11-8 J Tudor
6 452P- THE MACON LUGNATIC 41 Pauling 9-11-2 Luca Morgan
7 /P1P- HOTEL DU NORD 46 K Burke 10-11-2 H Cobden

2-1 Amateur, 9-2 Gwencily Berbas, 5-1 The Macon Lugnatic, Fairlawn Flyer, 7-1 Coup De Pinceau, 8-1 Hotel Du Nord, 16-1 Nearly Perfect.

### 3.50 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (10)
1 2312- JOHN BETJEMAN F18 (B,BF,CD) M Gillard 7-12-0 F Gillard (3)
2 2125- NIBRAS GOLD 258 (W,T,D) D Pipe 5-11-11 J Tudor
3 45P6- TIGER VOICE 37 (P,T,D) B J Llewellyn 8-11-5 R Williams (3)
4 522-4 KARANNELLE 7 (T,D) D Rees 8-11-4 L Williams
5 532P- LOUKARAK 25 T Vaughan 4-11-3 A Johns
6 3214- TURPIN GOLD 223 (D) R Stephens 7-11-3 Sean Houlihan
7 502-1 GAVIN 13 (H,T,D) P Bowen 5-11-1 B R Jones
8 0043- CUMHACHT 36 (T) R Curtis 10-11-0 H Cobden
9 0000- COAL FIRE 119 P Bowen 7-10-8 S Bowen
10 355-0 GOOD IMPRESSION 13 (CD) B J Llewellyn 8-10-4 E Collier (7)

11-4 John Betjeman, 7-2 Gavin, 4-1 Cumhacht, 7-1 Karannelle, 15-2 Nibras Gold, 10-1 Turpin Gold, Coal Fire, 25-1 Loukarak, Good Impression, 33-1 Tiger Voice.

### 4.20 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 3m) (13)
1 /PP-5 FINE THEATRE 14 (P,T) R Phillips 13-12-2 S Twiston-Davies
2 451F- FIRST CLASS RETURN 41 (B,T,D) O Murphy 10-11-8 L Stones (3)
3 13PF- EASKEY LAD 27 (P,T,D) R Curtis 8-11-6 B R Jones
4 14P-2 UNBLINKING 12 (T) R Bevis 10-11-4 F Lambert (5)
5 B033- REIGN SUEPREME 43 (P) Mrs N Evans 8-11-4 J Best
6 0605- UNAI 29 (P,D) J Groucott 8-11-0 L Edwards
7 /UPP- O'FAOLAINS LAD 25 (P,T) Mrs R Ford 9-10-13 B J Powell
8 0440- PRINCE OF BAD LINS 272 (P,T) R Potter 5-10-12 S Bowen
9 P2P0- TUDORS TREASURE 24 (CD) R Stephens 12-10-6 Ciaran Gethings
10 P062- BEANNAIGH DO 27 (H) Sheila Lewis 6-10-5 Sean Houlihan
11 6U4-U BLACKJACKTENNESSEE 21 (P) M Rowley 9-10-4 A Edwards
12 0300- JUSTSHORTOFABUBBLE 31 (P) G Harris 6-10-2 C Ring (3)
13 3PP-5 CHAIN SMOKER 8 (B) Georgie Howell 10-10-2 Tabitha Worsley (3)

5-2 Unblinking, 7-2 Beannaigh Do, 6-1 Reign Suepreme, 8-1 First Class Return, 10-1 Prince Of Bad Lins, 12-1 Easkey Lad, 14-1 Unai, 16-1 Fine Theatre, O'Faolains Lad.

### 4.50 Open Maiden NH Flat Race
(£2,614: 2m) (10)
1 BESTGETGOING (H) R J Price 5-11-2 Sean Houlihan
2 40- GLADYS EVA JANE 244 P Bowen 5-11-2 S Bowen
3 GONE AWAY MADAM N King 5-11-2 J Quinlan
4 5- MADAM RYDER 40 N Henderson 5-11-2 N De Boinville
5 020- QUITE THE GETAWAY 32 R Bevis 5-11-2 F Lambert (5)
6 ASTON MARTINI N Henderson 4-10-10 Paul O'Brien
7 0- BRITANNIA GIRL 26 B Eckley 4-10-10 R T Dunne
8 P-3 SHAKEYATAILFEATHER 22 Harriet Dickin 4-10-10 B Poste
9 WALK OF THE ROSES D Pipe 4-10-10 J Tudor
10 0- WENDY BYRDE 26 J Flint 4-10-10 J Best

13-8 Madam Ryder, 7-2 Aston Martini, 11-2 Walk Of The Roses, 7-1 Quite The Getaway, 8-1 Gone Away Madam, 12-1 Shakeyatailfeather, 14-1 others.

## Market Rasen
Thunderer

5.45 Redbridge Rambler
6.15 Noonie
6.45 Whataboutyeh
7.15 Ridgeway
7.45 Rory And Me
8.15 No Recollection
8.45 Denburn

Going: good — Racing TV

### 5.45 Maiden Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 7f) (5)
1 PP05- ANOTHER MYSTERY 26 (P) L Wadham 6-11-6 Bryony Frost
2 0404- DOYOUKNOWWHATIMEAN 24 D Skelton 6-11-6 Bridget Andrews
3 362-3 REDBRIDGE RAMBLER 16 M Keighley 5-11-6 B Hughes
4 52- ELLIES SISTER 112 J Snowden 6-10-13 G Sheehan
5 564- LA PAGERIE 24 N Mulholland 6-10-13 D McMenamin

11-8 Redbridge Rambler, 7-4 Doyouknowwhatimean, 4-1 Ellies Sister, 10-1 La Pagerie, 25-1 Another Mystery.

### 6.15 Maiden Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 3f) (5)
1 FPP0- POPATANGO 25 J Bedi 6-11-4 A Anderson (5)
2 P2P0- PRESENTING BELLE 26 (V) L Wadham 6-11-4 Bryony Frost
3 /45-3 STOWAWAY JESS 16 F O'Brien 6-11-4 C Brace
4 41- TEECEETHREE 244 (W,T) J Snowden 5-11-4 G Sheehan
5 P2- NOONIE 29 (T) P Kirby 4-10-10 Thomas Dowson

9-4 Teeceethree, 5-2 Stowaway Jess, 3-1 Presenting Belle, Noonie, 100-1 Popatango.

### 6.45 Handicap Chase (£4,225: 3m) (7)
1 6222- CHIEF BLACK ROSE 30 (BF) F O'Brien 7-12-0 Mr T Broughton (7)
2 024R- MISS WACHIT 40 (B) Ruth Jefferson 7-11-13 K Woods
3 005-3 RON BURGUNDY 16 (P,T) I Williams 6-11-13 C J Todd
4 001-4 WHATABOUTYEH 16 (T,BF) S England 6-11-7 J England
5 P3PP- THE VERY THING 88 (V) M Hammond 9-11-0 Emma Smith-Chaston (3)
6 2/P0- CALYPSO STORM 28 (P,T) J Bedi 12-10-9 A Anderson (5)
7 000P- CLASSIC LADY 46 (W,T) M Walford 8-10-6 J Hamilton

7-4 Ron Burgundy, 2-1 Whataboutyeh, 4-1 Chief Black Robe, 8-1 Miss Wachit, 16-1 Classic Lady, The Very Thing, 33-1 Calypso Storm.

### 7.15 Handicap Chase (£5,281: 2m 3f) (5)
1 1P43- RIDGEWAY 31 (P,T) D Skelton 6-12-2 Bridget Andrews
2 2182- PENS MAN 216 (P,T) Jonjo O'Neill 8-11-13 K Brogan
3 0PP0- AND THE NEW 46 (P,T) L Morgan 12-11-12 A Wedge
4 4160- HERECOMESHOGAN 24 M Keighley 6-11-10 B Hughes
5 /433- HIGH NOON 353 (BF,CD) M Hammond 11-10-6 C O'Farrell

11-8 Pens Man, 5-2 Ridgeway, 4-1 High Noon, 13-2 Herecomeshogan, 14-1 And The New.

### 7.45 Handicap Hurdle (£5,281: 2m 5f) (6)
1 413P- LET ME BE 266 (CD) Dr R Newland 7-12-0 C Hammond
2 P06P- GUIRI 26 (P,D) B Haslam 8-11-11 R McLernon
3 3235- PRESENTING PETE 237 (BF) J Mackie 6-11-9 P J Kavanagh (5)
4 1650- RORY AND ME 43 (P,T,C) M Hammond 8-11-3 C O'Farrell
5 2250- HEADSCARF LIL 26 (W) N Richards 9-11-1 Sean Quinlan
6 0P5-0 MAGNA MORALIA 16 (P) M Sowersby 6-10-8 A Anderson (5)

5-4 Presenting Pete, 3-1 Headscarf Lil, 4-1 Let Me Be, 6-1 Rory And Me, 16-1 Guiri, 25-1 Magna Moralia.

### 8.15 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 1f) (7)
1 1506- SUPREME YEATS 66 (P) L Morgan 7-12-0 A Wedge
2 1U52- ZAMOND 59 (P,D) D McCain 7-11-13 B Hughes
3 316- NO RECOLLECTION 223 (T) S England 5-11-13 J England
4 5300- ROYLE STEEL 43 (D) M Hammond 5-11-9 C O'Farrell
5 5/P0- TONYX 38 (D) Miss A Murphy 7-11-5 C J Todd
6 2P5-2 GEORGE MALLORY 10 C & A Pogson 7-10-12 L Dobb (7)
7 P40-0 PROSPECT HOUSE 12 (P) P Niven 5-10-2 D McMenamin

11-8 Zamond, 3-1 George Mallory, 6-1 No Recollection, 8-1 Supreme Yeats, 12-1 Royle Steel, Prospect House, Tonyx.

### 8.45 Open NH Flat Race
(£2,722: 2m 1f) (7)
1 COLONEL WHIZZ 0 Murphy 5-11-2 A P Heskin
2 JINGLE JANGLE JET P Kirby 5-11-2 J Williamson (5)
3 DENBURN A King 4-10-10 T Cannon
4 JOUR D'EVASION H Daly 4-10-10 R Patrick
5 MR ZIPPI Sara Ender 4-10-10 N Moscrop
6 0- LOOKS RIGHT 62 M Sowersby 5-10-9 A Anderson (5)
7 MARLINS DARLIN M Hammond 4-10-3 J Thompson (10)

13-8 Colonel Whizz, 15-8 Denburn, 4-1 Jour D'evasion, 10-1 Jingle Jangle Jet, Marlins Darlin, 25-1 Mr Zippi, 150-1 Looks Right.

## Redcar
Thunderer

1.50 Vice Captain
2.20 Chaturanga
2.55 Paradise Row
3.30 Senesi
4.00 Belsito
4.30 Dubai Dawn
5.05 Mr Jetman
5.40 Galilaeus

Going: good — Racing TV
Draw: 5f-7f, high numbers best

### 1.50 Maiden Stakes
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (10)
1 (7) 4 ARC SHADOWFAX 30 S Spencer 9-7 Dale Swift
2 (10) 0 BARGAIN BASEMENT 16 M & D Easterby 9-7 Joanna Mason
3 (8) 00 MAJOR KESSAAR 23 R Menzies 9-7 C Hardie
4 (5) MARTON HEADS T Easterby 9-7 D Allan
5 (1) 6 STAMPER 21 O Pears 9-7 JP Sullivan
6 (6) VICE CAPTAIN G Scott 9-7 D Muscutt
7 (3) 335 CHUMBAA 19 R Fell 9-2 J Peate (5)
8 (2) INVINCIBLE AMY Gemma Tutty 9-2 S James
9 (4) PERSIAN PHOENIX Charlie Johnston 9-2 J Hart
10 (9) 0 SHAH OF THE ISLE 7 Darryll Holland 9-2 Jason Watson

2-1 Persian Phoenix, 4-1 Chumbaa, 9-2 Marton Heads, 5-1 Vice Captain, 10-1 Stamper, 12-1 Arc Shadowfax, 14-1 Invincible Amy, 33-1 others.

### 2.20 Maiden Stakes
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £4,320: 6f) (10)
1 (1) CHATTY T Easterby 9-7 D Allan
2 (3) CHATURANGA A Watson 9-7 H Doyle
3 (7) NIGHT SAFARI Charlie Johnston 9-7 J Hart
4 (8) PATRONAGE N Tinkler 9-7 R Scott
5 (4) RYOTO O Pears 9-7 G Lee
6 (10) SUPREME TENACITY Phillip Makin 9-7 K Stott
7 (2) 0 UP THE JAZZ 21 R Fahey 9-7 C Murtagh
8 (5) 60 BELLESTARR 16 Craig Lidster 9-2 S James
9 (9) 06 MISS RAINBOW 13 T Waggott 9-2 T Eaves
10 (6) NELSON ROSE A West 9-2 B McHugh

2-1 Chaturanga, 3-1 Night Safari, 13-2 Chatty, 8-1 Up The Jazz, 12-1 Nelson Rose, 14-1 Patronage, Bellestarr, 16-1 Miss Rainbow, Supreme Tenacity, Ryoto.

### 2.55 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 1m) (7)
1 (5) 5-062 HAT TOSS 23 (H) D Loughnane 3-9-4 Laura Pearson (3)
2 (2) 2-23 MILTEYE 16 (P,BF) Jack Channon 3-9-4 K Stott
3 (4) 20-24 MOUNT KING 14 T Easterby 3-9-4 D Allan
4 (7) 62 OWNERS DREAM 11 D O'Meara 3-9-4 Jason Watson
5 (1) -4625 DUKE OF WYBOURNE 33 N Tinkler 3-9-2 A Jary (7)
6 (3) 5 SEA GIRT 20 I Jardine 3-9-2 J Hart
7 (6) 4 PARADISE ROW 19 W Knight 3-8-11 H Doyle

11-4 Milteye, 3-1 Hat Toss, 9-2 Mount King, 5-1 Paradise Row, 6-1 Owners Dream, 8-1 Duke Of Wybourne, 33-1 Sea Girt.

### 3.30 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (11)
1 (5) 3314- ALETHIOMETER 310 M Dods 4-10-3 C Rodriguez
2 (11) 44-00 WHITE UMBRELLA 14 C Kellett 4-9-12 J Hart
3 (4) 34-20 STRANGERONTHESHORE 25 (D) N Tinkler 5-9-12 R Scott
4 (3) 010-4 GENTLE ELLEN 21 D & N Barron 4-9-10 T Eaves
5 (9) 3-324 VIOLETA 18 B Haslam 3-9-3 G Lee
6 (1) 5-54P BEAUTIFUL EYES 27 Charlie Johnston 3-9-2 H Doyle
7 (2) 34-4 SENESI 107 K P De Foy 3-9-1 D Muscutt
8 (6) 030-5 ORIGINAL THINKER 14 R Bethell 3-9-0 C Hardie
9 (8) 5422- DEE SEE ARE 198 (T) K R Burke 3-8-11 S James
10 (7) 14-43 MY HONEY B 15 (D) M & D Easterby 3-8-10 Joanna Mason
11(10) 003- DAISY ROOTS 202 A West 3-8-4 JP Sullivan

100-30 Senesi, 4-1 Dee See Are, 5-1 Alethiometer, 7-1 My Honey B, 15-2 Violeta, 10-1 Gentle Ellen, Strangeronthesshore, 14-1 Daisy Roots.

### 4.00 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,187: 5f) (9)
1 (5) 303- MISTAMAC 153 J J Quinn 9-11 J Hart
2 (9) 201-0 STRENGTH 'N HONOUR 21 (P,D) C Kellett 9-11 P Mathers
3 (7) 501-4 BELSITO 22 (CD) K Ryan 9-11 T Eaves
4 (2) 133-0 ZUFFOLO 21 (D) M Dods 9-10 C Rodriguez
5 (1) 350-5 BOROUGH 15 I Jardine 9-6 H Doyle
6 (3) 30-04 LET'S GO HUGO 13 (D) O Pears 9-5 JP Sullivan
7 (8) 5605- YOUR SPIRIT 158 (W) P Midgley 9-3 G Lee
8 (4) -3534 CINQUE VERDE 23 (E,T) K R Burke 9-3 S James
9 (6) 54222 EXCEED 20 (T,BF) N Tinkler 8-10 R Scott

9-4 Exceed, 4-1 Belsito, 9-2 Cinque Verde, 5-1 Mistamac, 10-1 Zuffolo, 12-1 Your Spirit, 14-1 Borough, 16-1 Let's Go Hugo, 25-1 Strength 'n Honour.

### 4.30 Handicap (£8,100: 5f) (7)
1 (5) 403-0 READY FREDDIE GO 16 (P,D) O Pears 5-10-2 H Russell (3)
2 (4) 5030- REMARKABLE FORCE 227 (D) Alice Haynes 3-9-8 K Stott
3 (3) 5-640 GOOD EARTH 22 (D) M Herrington 6-9-6 T Eaves
4 (2) 11 DUBAI DAWN 37 J Tate 3-9-4 P J McDonald
5 (7) 20-00 TEXAS MAN 34 (CD) P Midgley 6-9-3 B McHugh
6 (6) 062-0 SACRED JEWEL 22 (H,BF,D) J Camacho 4-9-0 G Lee
7 (1) 13-00 GRACE ANGEL 3 (B,T,D) Darryll Holland 3-8-12 Jason Watson

Evens Dubai Dawn, 11-2 Remarkable Force, 6-1 Sacred Jewel, 7-1 Ready Freddie Go, 10-1 Good Earth, 12-1 Texas Man, 14-1 Grace Angel.

### 5.05 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 7f) (15)
1 (13) 35134 EIGHT MILE 27 G Scott 9-11 D Muscutt
2 (5) 33-00 TILT AT WINDMILLS 21 K R Burke 9-11 A Brookes (5)
3 (4) 46410 SOUTH DAKOTA SIOUX 14 (H,D) D O'Meara 9-10 Jason Watson
4 (3) 505-0 ERAZMUS 24 D & N Barron 9-9 T Eaves
5 (9) 404-0 BOWLEAZE 24 J Camacho 9-9 G Lee
6 (14) 00-36 ROCKIN ROSA 17 R Carr 9-9 JP Sullivan
7 (15) 63-60 ANIERES GIRL 16 (H) M & D Easterby 9-8 D Allan
8 (12) 4-500 BRYCE 17 N Tinkler 9-8 F McManoman
9 (1) -2634 THORNABY BEAUTY 11 Adrian Nicholls 9-7 B McHugh
10(11) 4050- COUNTESS KESS 252 P Midgley 9-7 C Hardie
11 (2) 06432 MR JETMAN 7 G Tuer 9-4 S James
12(10) 056 RUBELLITE 38 W Haggas 8-13 C Fallon
13 (6) 000-5 HAWKES BAY 21 (P) A West 8-10 H Doyle
14 (7) 6-060 DRESDEN GREEN 11 R Carr 8-10 L Edmunds
15 (8) 004-0 GOBLET OF FIRE 20 N Tinkler 8-9 R Scott

11-4 Mr Jetman, 11-2 Eight Mile, 6-1 Thornaby Beauty, Rubellite, 10-1 Goblet Of Fire, 12-1 South Dakota Sioux, 16-1 others.

### 5.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 1m 6f) (9)
1 (1) 00-41 GALILAEUS 5 (B) R Beckett 10-0(6ex) H Crouch
2 (5) 500- STAR 213 A Watson 9-11 H Doyle
3 (7) 060-4 KING HARRY 21 Gemma Tutty 9-8 R Scott
4 (3) 060-3 MICHAEL'S PLEDGE 22 (BF) J J Quinn 9-6 J Hart
5 (4) 5600 ECCLES STREET 11 (B) G Tuer 9-4 S James
6 (6) 6-421 EDWINA SHEERAN 6 (P) R Fell 9-3(6ex) C Fallon
7 (9) 60-14 A DAY TO DREAM 14 O Pears 9-1 JP Sullivan
8 (8) 000-5 HAVE YOU A MINUTE 22 T Tate 8-11 T Eaves
9 (2) 0-044 VITANI 20 A West 8-9 B McHugh

7-4 Galilaeus, 4-1 Edwina Sheeran, 9-2 Michael's Pledge, 7-1 A Day To Dream, 8-1 Star, 16-1 King Harry, Have You A Minute, 20-1 Vitani, Eccles Street.

## Course specialists

**Carlisle: Trainers** Mrs D Sayer, 15 winners from 68 runners, 22.1%; G Tuer, 7 from 34, 20.6%; K A Ryan, 11 from 63, 17.5%. **Jockeys** C Lee, 8 winners from 35 rides, 22.9%; J Fanning, 10 from 45, 22.2%.

**Ffos Las: Trainers** N Henderson, 14 from 39, 35.9%; B Pauling, 12 from 38, 31.6%; E Lavelle, 4 from 13, 30.8%. **Jockeys** N De Boinville, 8 from 20, 40%; H Cobden, 10 from 29, 34.5%.

**Market Rasen: Trainers** Miss J Bedi, 3 from 9, 33.3%; H Daly, 7 from 24, 29.2%; R Jefferson, 3 from 14, 21.4%. **Jockeys** Bryony Frost, 9 from 27, 33.3%; D McMenamin, 5 from 21, 23.8%.

**Redcar: Trainers** G Scott, 3 from 8, 37.5%; W Haggas, 16 from 50, 32%; G Tutty, 3 from 12, 25%. **Jockeys** D Muscutt, 4 from 17, 23.5%; Hollie Doyle, 6 from 31, 19.4%.

**Windsor: Trainers** C Appleby, 10 from 20, 50%; Sheena West, 5 from 15, 33.3%; J & T Gosden, 9 from 29, 31%. **Jockeys** W Buick, 22 from 75, 29.3%; B De La Sayette, 7 from 24, 29.2%.

**Blinkered first time: Carlisle** 5.15 Sir Dotti. **Ffos Las** 3.20 Nearly Perfect. 3.20 Fairlawn Flyer. **Redcar** 5.40 Eccles Street. **Windsor** 7.35 Pride Of Nepal.

## Yesterday's racing results

### Ripon
Going: good (good to firm in places)

**2.25** (5f) 1, **Foreseeable Future** (Benoit D L Sayette, 85-40 fav); 2, Van Gerwen (12-1); 3, Canaria Prince (7-2). 9 ran. NR: Ecclesiastical. ns, 2l. Mrs R Carr.

**2.55** (6f) 1, **Asadna** (W Buick, 4-1); 2, Fifty Grand Slater (11-2); 3, Jesmond Dawn (12-1). 6 ran. 12l, 4l. G Boughey.

**3.25** (1m 1f 170yd) 1, **Market Value** (Tom Marquand, 5-4 fav); 2, Bosc Girl (5-1); 3, Jo's Rainbow (9-2). 9 ran. 3½l, 2½l. W J Haggas.

**3.55** (1m 1f 170yd) 1, **Mr Buster** (Rossa Ryan, 10-11 fav); 2, Roaring Legend (9-2); 3, Rievaulx Raver (22-1). 7 ran. NR: In The Trenches, Laser Guided. 7½l, 2l. R M Beckett.

**4.25** (6f) 1, **Pinafore** (Tom Marquand, 4-6 fav); 2, International Girl (9-2); 3, Coco Jamboo (11-2). 5 ran. 1l, 1l. W J Haggas.

**4.55** (1m 1f 170yd) 1, **Showmedemoney** (Jason Hart, 11-2); 2, Tele Red (7-1); 3, Ghost Rider (8-1). 9 ran. NR: Isle of Wolves, Toophan. Hd, 1½l. I Jardine.

**5.25** (6f) 1, **Lily In The Jungle** (Billy Garritty, 16-1); 2, Aurora Glory (28-1); 3, Yorkstone (8-1). 13 ran. NR: Tantalus. 1¾l, hd. P A Kirby.

**Jackpot: £1,388.00.**
**Placepot: £23.40.**
**Quadpot: £3.90.**

### Stratford
Going: good

**2.05** (2m 6f 7yd hdle) 1, **Astroman** (Nick Scholfield, 8-1); 2, Shandancer (6-4); 3, Elpologreg (33-1). 8 ran. Nk, 7l. Syd Hosie.

**2.35** (2m 3f 98yd ch) 1, **Admiral's Sunset** (James Davies, 25-1); 2, Princess Midnight (17-2); 3, Henerytta Bay (16-5). 8 ran. 3¾l, 3l. D Weston.

**3.05** (2m 70yd hdle) 1, **Nevendon** (Nick Scholfield, 9-1); 2, Book of Secrets (7-4); 3, Call Me Rocky (5-6 fav). 6 ran. NR: Gold In Doha. 5½l, 15l. Alexandra Dunn.

**3.35** (2m 213yd ch) 1, **First Angel** (Adam Wedge, 4-1 Co fav); 2, Copper Fox (4-1 Co fav); 3, Henri Le Bon (4-1 Co fav). 9 ran. 4½l, 1½l. M Keighley.

**4.05** (3m 2f 83yd hdle) 1, **Maid Of The Night** (Richard Patrick, 9-2); 2, Nora The Xplorer (11-10); 3, Shantou Sunset (9-2). 9 ran. NR: Committee Of One. ¾l, ¾l. H D Daly.

**4.35** (2m 6f 125yd ch) 1, **Steel Wave** (Tabitha Worsley, 11-1); 2, Herewegohoney (5-1); 3, Joly Maker (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Balagan, Fraternel. 1½l, 22l. G Hanmer.

**5.05** (2m 70yd Flat) 1, **Parade Away** (Bradley Harris, 2-1 fav); 2, King Of Tara (9-2); 3, Gregorian Diamond (5-1). 10 ran. NR: Joker De Thaix. 4l, 10l. M F Harris.

**Placepot: £145.90.** **Quadpot: £32.80.**

# Koepka lands a major blow for LIV

**Rick Broadbent**



Rochester, New York

When his career reached a trough of self-doubt and injury, Brooks Koepka said he would give every dollar he had ever made to taste the thrill of winning a major again for just one hour. Golf is in the age of megabucks, with a billion-dollar rebel tour and a focus on the zeroes as well as heroes, but the LIV man knows the value of his third US PGA Championship title.

The American, 33, becomes the first LIV Golf player to lift a major to add fuel to the debate about the Saudi-funded circuit's worth and future. Koepka, though, is not much of a tub-thumper and this was about him and a cathartic comeback.

He had said there would be no choke at Oak Hill after berating himself for losing the lead at last month's Masters. That showed how the bully-boy swagger was back, but it also made him a hostage to fortune. Viktor Hovland, the popular Norwegian, did all he could to exhume Koepka's demons and underlined his own potential, but his bid unravelled on the 16th. Trailing by one he found a fairway bunker and stuttered to a double bogey. Koepka poured salt into the wounds with a birdie and suddenly he was four clear. It enabled the fast-finishing Scottie Scheffler to join Hovland in second place two strokes back.

A round of 67 took Koepka to nine under par and five majors, level with Seve Ballesteros and Byron Nelson, and one ahead of Rory McIlroy. Jon Rahm, the world No 1, gave perhaps the best assessment as he finished early and did some commentary for CBS. "He is a player that when he gets in contention is like a shark in water," Rahm said. "He smells blood."

There was more on the line than normal. For Koepka there was a return to former glories, when he was obliterating major fields with his will and talent, and for Hovland there was the chance to turn all that promise into gold. And then there was the backdrop of golf's great divide. Koepka is now a LIV Golf man and you knew Greg Norman, the face of the rebel circuit, was plotting to appropriate this win as validation. Norman had suggested the LIV contingent would storm the green if one of their own won at the Masters. That never happened. Koepka led by two shots going into that finale, but ended up four behind Rahm.

He vowed never to "choke" again. The pressure was on, and every time it seemed the drama had reached a pivotal moment, the plot thickened.



**Hovland finished in a tie for second with Scheffler**

One of those came on the 12th when Koepka's approach flirted with disaster but rested on the edge of the green. He made the putt and had a two-stroke lead with six to play. On the next hole Hovland snaffled a birdie. The gap was gossamer again. When Hovland did draw level on the 14th, parity lasted barely a minute before Koepka also gained a shot. The man in orange was always close but never quite there, a half-step behind, trying to land a telling punch but shadow-boxing.

Four years ago Koepka was the best player in golf. He had the game but what seemed to separate him from others was the mental strength. Or as his coach Pete Cowen put it: "The lad's got balls of steel." Cowen famously gave Koepka one of the game's great "bollockings" when he sat him down at the US Open in 2017. "His body language was terrible," he recounted. "He was petulant. He was horrendous, shoulders down, dog's dead, poor me." Koepka duly won and landed three more majors in 23 months. Then he slipped on concrete and the injuries mounted in tandem with plateauing form. By last year he was showing a hitherto unknown vulnerability to Netflix cameras. His mother told him it was time to put on his "big boy pants and get out there", and there is a widespread belief he may never have taken the Saudi money had he known he would recover so well.

As for the rest, McIlroy had started the day five off the lead, but the early starters showed that Oak Hill had undergone a facelift and was now smiling on players. Cameron Smith, the Open champion and another LIV man, had four quick birdies, as did Victor Perez. Opportunity knocked but McIlroy could not answer. Three bogeys on the outward nine negated the birdies and he was left needing a wholescale implosion to win. He tied for seventh.

Justin Rose has rolled back the years this week, but the wheels came off as he headed for home. Nevertheless, a top-ten finish will be consolation.

Earlier in the day, Zach Johnson added to the muddy Ryder Cup vista as he described Koepka as "a rare breed" but then refused to say whether or not he would feel comfortable in picking LIV players for his USA team. "It's too premature and frankly irresponsible to have an opinion on that right now," he said. He added that he had not spoken to Koepka about the Ryder Cup, although his major form means he may end up qualifying by right.

That is another story, but golf can still throw up pure sporting gold. Michael Block's hole in one was a joy and the club pro was in tears as he made a par on the last to make sure he returns next year. It's not all about the money.

ERIK S. LESSER/EPA



**Koepka celebrates sinking his putt on the 18th to finish on nine under at Oak Hill and seal a fifth major and first since 2019**

## Final scores from Oak Hill Country Club

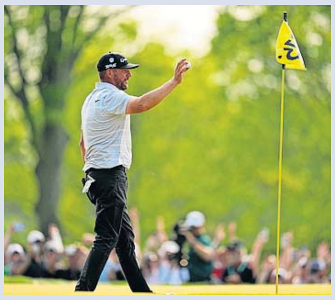
*United States unless stated* *Par 70*

**271** B Koepka 72, 66, 66, 67.
**273** S Scheffler 67, 68, 73, 65; V Hovland (Nor) 68, 67, 70, 68.
**277** C Davis (Aus) 71, 70, 71, 65; K Kitayama 70, 71, 71, 65; B DeChambeau 66, 71, 70, 70.
**278** S Straka (Austria) 69, 71, 73, 65; R McIlroy (N Ire) 71, 69, 69, 69.
**279** C Smith (Aus) 72, 72, 70, 65; P Cantlay 74, 67, 72, 66; J Rose (Eng) 69, 70, 69, 71.
**280** S Lowry (Ire) 73, 67, 71, 69; V Perez (Fr) 70, 72, 69, 69; C Conners (Can) 67, 68, 70, 75.
**281** T Hatton (Eng) 77, 68, 69, 67; E Cole 67, 74, 70, 70; M Block 70, 70, 70, 71.
**282** G Mito (Chile) 72, 69, 74, 67; X Schauffele 72, 72, 71, 67; Lee Min-woo (Aus) 73, 67, 71, 71; P Reed 72, 71, 69, 70; T Fleetwood (Eng) 72, 71, 68, 71.
**283** A Smalley 73, 72, 70, 68; M NeSmith 70, 70, 74, 69; R Fox (NZ) 68, 73, 71, 71.
**284** C Morikawa 71, 70, 74, 69; H Buckley 69, 74, 71, 70; J Suh 69, 68, 73, 74.
**285** C Tarren (Eng) 71, 67, 79, 68; P Rodgers 70, 75, 72, 68; Lee Kyoung-hoon (S Kor) 73, 68, 75, 69; D McCarthy 75, 70, 72, 68; A Scott (Aus) 68, 74, 74, 69; J Spieth 73, 72, 71, 69; H Varner III 70, 71, 74, 70; C Kirk 70, 75, 69, 71; K Bradley 68, 72, 74, 71; T Pendrith (Can) 70, 69, 74, 72; H Matsuyama (Japan) 72, 71, 70, 72. **286** A Meronk (Pol) 75, 69, 74, 68; T Detry (Bel) 74, 71, 73, 68; J T Poston 72, 70, 75, 69; A Hadwin (Can) 70, 73, 73, 70; L Herbert (Aus) 75, 69, 72, 70; B Hossler 71, 70, 74, 71, C Reavie 76, 68, 71, 71; T Pieters (Bel) 69, 76, 70, 71; A Svensson (Can) 70, 70, 73, 73; S Theegala 71, 71, 71, 73. **287** P Harrington (Ire) 72, 71, 75, 69; N Hoejgaard (Den) 76, 67, 73, 71; J Rahm (Sp) 76, 68, 72, 71; S Jaeger (Ger) 72, 70, 69, 76. **288** D Burmester (SA) 73, 71, 72, 72. **289** L Hodges 75, 70, 75, 69; M Homa 71, 72, 74, 72; D Johnson 67, 74, 74, 74. **290** P Mickelson 73, 72, 75, 70; Z Johnson 74, 71, 74, 71; T Hoge 74, 70, 72, 74; K Mitchell 69, 71, 73, 77. **291** R Hoshino (Japan) 75, 70, 75, 71; Kim Si-hwan 75, 68, 75, 73; T Lawrence (SA) 75, 69, 73, 74. **292** T Montgomery 75, 70, 76, 71; J Thomas 72, 73, 75, 72; M Wallace (Eng) 73, 70, 75, 74; P Larrazábal (Sp) 69, 75, 74, 74. **293** B Taylor (Eng) 72, 72, 78, 71; J Dahmen 74, 69, 78, 72; Y Paul (Ger) 76, 69, 73, 75. **295** T Moore 74, 69, 78, 74; T Finau 72, 73, 73, 77; S Stevens 71, 72, 73, 79. **298** M Hubbard 71, 74, 79, 74. **300** K Higa (Japan) 72, 73, 77, 78.

### Dream hole in one for Block

Michael Block's Cinderella story had a happy ending as the club pro made a hole in one at the 151-yard 15th. "You kidding me?" said the likeable Californian who has cut an emotional figure all week.

Playing with Rory McIlroy, the 46-year-old looked bemused after his ball, adorned with his "why not?" motto, found the cup for the first ace by a club pro at the tournament for 27 years. It capped a fantasy week for Block, who gives lessons for £90 an hour at home.





**McIlroy congratulates Block after his special moment on the 15th**

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## Taylor eyes rematch with Cameron after suffering her first professional defeat

**Boxing** Katie Taylor is looking towards a rematch with Chantelle Cameron in the autumn after suffering her first professional defeat on Saturday night in Dublin.

Cameron, the 32-year-old from Northampton, defended her undisputed light-welterweight title after winning the ten-round fight on a majority points decision.

A disappointed Taylor told DAZN after the bout that she had already set her sights on another contest with Cameron. "I'm not sure [if it was a close fight] — I'd have to look back it at," Taylor, 36, said.

"Congratulations to Chantelle and thank you for this opportunity. I'm looking forward to the rematch.

"I wasn't surprised how fast she was. I expected everything that came my way, but I just came up short."

Cameron, undefeated in her 18 professional fights, wants more belts. "I was petrified. I've seen results go the other way in the past," she said. "It was a close fight and Katie is a great boxer, pound-for-pound the best."

The promoter Eddie Hearn said there would be a second fight. "I want to congratulate Katie and Chantelle for showing us what boxing is all about," he said. "It was a fight that could have gone either way but I think the result was right.

"There is a rematch clause and we want to do it again in the autumn. There's only one thing on Katie's mind and that is a rematch."

## Cavendish 'set to retire'

**Cycling** Mark Cavendish will today announce that he will retire from professional cycling at the end of the season, according to reports in Italy.

Cavendish celebrated his 38th birthday by slogging up hills in the Giro d'Italia yesterday and his team, Astana, said he would hold a rest-day press conference. Gazzetta dello Sport reported that the sprinter, who is level with Eddy Merckx for most Tour de France stage wins, will use it to reveal his plans to bow out after this season.

## Swift hat-trick secures win

**Rugby league** Adam Swift scored a hat-trick of tries as Hull FC defeated Castleford 32-8 to reach the last eight of the Betfred Challenge Cup.

The away team were 22-0 up inside 30 minutes as Josh Griffin and Jack Brown scored tries either side of two for Swift. Mahe Fonua got Castleford on the board before half-time but Swift scored his third try and Jordan Lane added another for Hull FC. Will Tate scored a consolation for the home side.

# The greatest final restores faith in a sport at lowest ebb

| | |
|---|---|
| Leinster | 26 |
| La Rochelle | 27 |

Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent, Dublin

A great final. The greatest final. The Heineken Champions Cup has had some dramatic denouements down the years but none as staggering as this, with La Rochelle rallying from 17 points down in Dublin, where they were in danger of being drowned in a sea of blue, to defeat Leinster 27-26 and retain the trophy.

There is a World Cup in France on the horizon, which has the potential to be spectacular, but it will have to go some to surpass this: an occasion to fill the heart and restore faith in what is possible for a sport that has given us every reason to question its future.

This competition takes time to get going, and the format revisions being undertaken are vital, but the Champions Cup, for its colour and tribalism, still refreshes parts that other rugby competitions cannot reach. The Aviva Stadium was decibels up on Ireland's grand slam game against England in March.

Tens of thousands gathered around the old port in La Rochelle to watch the final, many of whom stayed up until 3am to greet the team off their charter flight with flags and flares. Ronan O'Gara, the club's director of rugby, has promised a party until Friday; they will hold him to it.

A group of four middle-aged La Rochelle fans who made the trip to Dublin, bedecked in yellow with horns on their heads, were applauded into a Ballsbridge restaurant after the game. Once the Irish coffees and limoncello had been drunk, the two sets of fans joined forces in song.

The supporters in the restaurant and beyond were buzzing for hours, flooded with scrambled emotions: regret or joy, depending on their leaning, a sense of wonder and that strange empty feeling that envelops you at the end of an absorbing novel. They call it a book hangover, when you bump back into reality and wish you could live it all again — a sadness it's over and a reluctance to disentangle too quickly from the world you have just inhabited.

There will be time before Saturday's Gallagher Premiership final to assess the gulf that exists between the best in Europe and the best in England, but let us stay entangled in this Champions Cup final for one more day, where the characters were rich and vibrant and the storyline intoxicating.

On the side of the vanquished, Robbie Henshaw, Jamison Gibson-Park, Garry Ringrose, Josh van der Flier, Dan Sheehan and James Ryan, before his injury, delivered astonishing performances. Ultimately it was not quite enough to claim a record-equalling fifth title, because the mighty Will Skelton had never been so monstrous, at times striding on with Leinster players hanging off him.

Grégory Alldritt marked himself out again as a supreme leader. Antoine Hastoy, the fly half signed from Pau, graduated from a relegation battler to European champion with poise.

ROMAIN PERROCHEAU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES




Tens of thousands gather at the old port in La Rochelle to salute the champions

This was a story of the finest of margins, of untouchable Leinster brilliance eventually being overhauled by the unbreakable resolve and untameable power of La Rochelle, arguably the best team in the world.

"These players can't play a World Cup together, but there is a group there who can contest with the best in the world," O'Gara, who one day wants to be Ireland head coach, said. One day. "We have become a special team," he added. "But then you want to create a dynasty."

Defeated by La Rochelle in a semi-final in 2021 and in last year's final, Leinster set about exacting revenge with the perfect start. A mixture of brilliant analysis and supreme execution.

La Rochelle cleared to touch from the kick-off. Sheehan floated a throw into a gap that Leinster had manipulated in the middle of the lineout. Jack Conan burst on to the ball and passed it back to his hooker for a try after 40 seconds. "I recognised that move. Racing 92 did it against Munster in 2018 and it was very well played," Donnacha Ryan, La Rochelle's forwards coach, said.

Four minutes later James Lowe executed a 50-22 kick and with quick ball they got outside the yellow wall, with Jimmy O'Brien scoring in the corner.

The Aviva Stadium was beside itself when Leinster had their third. La Rochelle were down to 14 men with Tawera Kerr-Barlow in the sin-bin when Gibson-Park flung a sensational pass out to Sheehan for his second try in the same corner.

Bang. Bang. Bang — 17-0 up in 12 minutes.

"The first period was probably the best executed rugby I have seen in my life," Dillyn Leyds, the La Rochelle wing, said. "I was on the field going, 'Holy shit, this is incredible.'"

In my match notes it says, "Game over?" Not by a long shot.

O'Gara thought the turning point for La Rochelle was Jonathan Danty bouncing off two defenders to score while Kerr-Barlow was still off the field. Even then, it was hard to see them coming back. Leinster were defending like men possessed, flying into tackles. La Rochelle's big carriers were being rocked behind the gainline and it led to another penalty for 23-7.

Alldritt gathered his men under the posts. O'Gara has built a fraternity at La Rochelle. "We have no bad eggs, which is unusual for France," he said. "The boys really care." La Rochelle also felt disrespected by the Leinster fans and the tournament organisers. Alldritt said Ryan had failed to look him in the eye when they shook hands at the toss.

Under those posts, Alldritt told his men to stop taking shots and start playing rugby. Hastoy dinked a chip over the top to turn the momentum and La Rochelle cranked up the power. Skelton was involved twice before Hastoy put UJ Seuteni over for a try three minutes before the interval.

There then followed a tunnel fracas, which is the subject of a European Professional Club Rugby investigation. O'Gara reminded his players that they had been eight points down at half-time in Marseille a year earlier. This was nine points. It meant there was no need to alter the game plan. "We lifted our physicality and intensity in the second half," Lleyds said. "They couldn't live with that."

For 21 minutes they did. Sheehan turned over a maul. Van der Flier ripped the ball in contact. Conan was immaculate under pressure at No 8. Leinster defended heroically but could not clear their lines and, eventually, Georges-Henri Colombe scored. 27-26.

Leinster had eight minutes. Danty joined Ronan Kelleher in the sin-bin and Leinster opted for the corner instead of a shot at the posts. Then Michael Ala'alatoa flew wildly into a breakdown and was sent off. Penalty to La Rochelle. Game to La Rochelle. Title to La Rochelle. And some faith restored in a final for the ages.

**Scorers: Leinster: Tries** Sheehan 2 (1min, 11), O'Brien (5). **Con** Byrne. **Pens** Byrne 3 (23, 30, 46).
**La Rochelle: Tries** Danty (19), Seuteni (37), Colombe (71). **Cons** Hastoy 3. **Pens** Hastoy 2 (43, 49).
**Leinster** H Keenan; J O'Brien, G Ringrose, R Henshaw (C Ngatai 61), J Lowe; R Byrne, J Gibson-Park; A Porter, D Sheehan (R Kelleher 68; sin-bin 70), T Furlong (M Ala'alatoa 44; sent off 77), R Molony, J Ryan (J Jenkins 29), C Doris, J van der Flier, J Conan (R Baird 59).
**La Rochelle** B Dulin; D Leyds, U Seuteni, J Danty (sin-bin 74), R Rhule; A Hastoy, T Kerr-Barlow (sin-bin 10-20); R Wardi (J Sclavi 59), P Bourgarit (Q Lespiaucq-Brettes 65), U Atonio (G Colombe 59; Atonio 78), R Sazy (T Lavault 50), W Skelton, P Boudehent (U Dillane 65), L Botia (R Bourdeau 69), G Alldritt.
**Referee** J Peyper (SA).




Pierre Bourgarit shoves Leinster's Hugo Keenan during a manic, frenzied and

# Beaten … because they

France knocked out of London Sevens event after last-gasp drama over crucial conversion, writes **Kit Shepard**

There was a bizarre and controversial climax to the quarter-final between New Zealand and France at the London Sevens yesterday, as France ran out of time to take a conversion that would have forced the match into extra time.

Trailing 19-12, France's Joris Simon crossed for a try in the final play of the game to cut the deficit to two points, with a crucial conversion to come. However, Thomas Carol did not take the kick within the permitted 30 seconds, so the klaxon sounded at Twickenham and the conversion was disallowed by the referee Francisco Gonzalez, sending New Zealand through to the last four.

Carol was aggrieved that some New Zealand players had walked across his line as he prepared to take the kick, therefore delaying his attempt and forcing the violation. The New Zealand players were walking towards the touchline, knowing they were at least set for a brief break before extra time began, so they may have used this opportunity to covertly disrupt Carol's routine.

The 22-year-old had gestured to the referee when initially lining up

BRENDAN MORAN/SPORTSFILE



physical final in which La Rochelle rallied from 17-0 down to retain the trophy

# took too long over kick



Carol shows his displeasure as France are denied by the klaxon in a bizarre conclusion at Twickenham yesterday

the conversion to say that the Kiwis were blocking him and then complained more fervently once Gonzalez had blown the final whistle, but to no avail.

New Zealand have already won this year's men's World Rugby Sevens Series but the defeat has ramifications for France. They were third in the standings before this weekend but will be overtaken by Fiji, who beat New Zealand to reach the final but went on to lose 35-14 to Argentina.

At their home event — the final leg of the 2023 series — Great Britain were beaten by Samoa in the quarter-finals and went on to finish eighth after a 34-5 defeat in the seventh-place play-off against Australia, for whom victory secured qualification for the Paris Olympics next year.

# Green monsters aren't as frightening as they were

**Stuart Barnes**



Andy Farrell could only watch as the core of his grand slam-winning side were beaten by a club team on their own Dublin turf. Only time will tell whether this was a psychological blow to Ireland, the No1-ranked team three months out from the World Cup, or yet another of those Leinster "blips".

No, that is harsh. Leinster and their Ireland internationals produced as good a quarter-hour of intense rugby as I have ever seen. Ever. "The finest of margins," bemoaned their head coach, Leo Cullen, again and again and again afterwards.

Yet scoreboards can leave scars, especially in a game with such high stakes. Asked if his club had harmed the aspirations of his country, Ronan O'Gara, La Rochelle's head coach, avoided the question from the Irish perspective: "We can't play a Test match but we feel we had a Test team," the former Ireland fly half said. One side loaded with home-grown talent, the other with an assortment of players from around the planet.

Leinster and Ireland both looked immense before this final. The club may only have lost by a solitary point but the country now appears vulnerable — once more — in defeat. Three of the French team that could meet them in the World Cup quarter-finals were on show: Uini Atonio, Jonathan Danty and their leader on the field, Grégory Alldritt. They took everything the Irish could hit them with and came out of it calm.

At half-time, Alldritt described the visiting changing room as "serene", having been blitzed from the kick-off. To recover from a 17-0 deficit in Dublin and win will make the Ireland team appear a little less like scary green rugby monsters.

On Saturday in Dublin, the monsters were in yellow. Romain Sazy, the veteran La Rochelle lock, said: "We can be in monster-mode and very hard to beat."

There's no doubting O'Gara's powers of galvanisation, nor the poise of the No8 Alldritt, but this is not a team of galaxy greats. Half the French team wore the red and black of Toulouse in the semi-final but contentious yellow cards helped swing the game in Leinster's favour.

Saturday was nothing to do with Farrell but these are the Ireland head coach's elite contingent and the defeat was in their own backyard. The pack were pulverised in the tight exchanges. France will fancy their chances of repeating the forward dominance. There are question marks at tight and loose head. The old scrum worries are back.

Wonderful talent that he is and has long been, Tadhg Furlong departed early. He played, claimed Cullen, with a niggle. This is a season in which the niggles have worn away at his worth. Ireland need him at the 100 per cent he hasn't been at for a while. Andrew Porter is a piledriver of a player but Atonio devoured him in the scrum.

Ireland may have hidden the fact in the Six Nations but Porter looks like a tight-head hanging on in there on the loose. South Africa and New Zealand both possess potent scrums and will have noted what happened during this match.

Perhaps an even greater cause for concern is the situation at fly half. Everyone wants Johnny Sexton to be fit, but it is impossible not to be fearful. He is vulnerable. The back catalogue of blows and his present absence emphasise the potential frailty. It seemed that Ireland had struck lucky when injury ruled him out and Ross Byrne filled in for him in the last segment of the Six Nations.

The Leinster back-up fly half fits into both his club's and country's system. He makes a decent fist of being the imitation Sexton. But those games for Ireland were against teams incapable of responding to the Irish game plan.

The plan is fluid, Sexton is superb at changing the point of attack with a late pass or kick. In the final we witnessed the flaws of Byrne, the back-up. When La Rochelle grabbed the game, the home side needed someone to reboot another Leinster plan. Instead he seemed to go through the motions, kicking long and without threat, enabling Brice Dulin to instigate waves of counterattacks, or Antoine Hastoy to mix and match the game and keep his side surging forward.

Farrell sets great store by loyalty. It is an admirable trait but loyalty and faith become negatives if the eyes have to be screwed shut to avoid seeing the reality. Fingers crossed for the main man but it is hard to deny that Byrne may not be the shadow Sexton that Ireland need.

Irony of ironies, a few old-stagers in the stands wondered why Leinster bashed their bodies into the brick wall of La Rochelle's human ramparts in the dying minutes, rather than attempt a drop-goal for glory. A week previously, that was exactly what Jack Crowley, the Munster fly half, did to steal the United Rugby Championship semi-final from Leinster's admittedly second-string team.

Crowley has class, control, a cool head but he isn't another Sexton. He is his own man and maybe not yet a good enough goalkicker. But there is time to work on the latter and merge his own individual gifts as a fly half with the requirements of playing No10 for Ireland.



Byrne was unable to adapt Leinster's plan

Farrell is too good a coach to blindly hope nothing goes wrong. He will plan for all eventualities. That might mean a rethink in the front row. It definitely means some deep thinking as to what happens should Sexton be unavailable or injured.

Defeat may lead to a reordering of certain aspects of the Ireland game. If the glaring weaknesses from the final are fixed, then who knows? What appears a psychological blow may yet be a stroke of luck in the nick of time.

Ireland are the world's official No1 side but France, South Africa and New Zealand will be poring over the cold facts of this final.

# 'Sorry Max, sprint races are here to stay'

**Formula One**
**Kit Shepard**

The chief executive of Formula One has defended the expansion of sprint races this season after criticism from Max Verstappen.

The number of sprint races has doubled this year, with the new format requiring the Saturday of a race weekend to be solely dedicated to them, but Verstappen has demanded their removal. However, Stefano Domenicali insisted that the sport's growing fanbase may be under threat without sprint races and urged drivers to embrace the change.

"We have a new audience and need to provide value for money every session, not let everyone drive around in circles for the sole benefit of engineers and drivers," he said. "Sometimes being out of our comfort zone is not easy, but we cannot be lazy or complacent." Under the new format, qualifying for the Sunday's grand prix is staged on the Friday of the six weekends featuring a sprint race. The Saturday has qualifying for the sprint — coined the "Sprint Shootout" — followed by the sprint itself.

Verstappen, the winner of the past two world titles and leader of this year's drivers' championship, has been scathing of the shorter races. After the first sprint of the season in Azerbaijan last month, he demanded that they were scrapped and said they merely provide "artificial excitement".

"Drivers need to remember that they are part of a broader picture," Domenicali, 58, told the Daily Mail.

Verstappen, 25, also said in Azerbaijan that he may step away from the sport when his contract with Red Bull ends in 2028, albeit blaming the hectic schedule rather than the sprint races for his stance. But Domenicali is not concerned that Formula One will lose one of its most recognisable figures in the immediate future.

"I discussed the issues with Max [before the most recent race in Miami]," Domenicali said. "He said he loved the sport and what he was doing. He is world champion and is fighting for a third title. He was born in a car. I would say he is likely to stay longer than me."

Domenicali is similarly optimistic about the future of Lewis Hamilton.

"I'd like him to stay in the sport 100 per cent, 1,000 per cent," Domenicali said of the 38-year-old. "Now his role in F1 is getting bigger than an F1 world champion, given the way he gets involved in a lot of things outside the sport and takes an active role in society. He takes us towards new dimensions."

# Where the Ashes will be

With the start of the series a little more than three weeks away, Times cricket writers look at the big selection issues and the dangermen while offering their predictions for what will be an intriguing seven weeks

### WHAT WAS YOUR REACTION TO ENGLAND'S LATEST SQUAD — WAS IT HARSH TO DROP BEN FOAKES?

**Mike Atherton** Taking Jonny Bairstow's fitness on trust (the medics know more than we do), then England made the right call. Once fully fit — wicketkeeping is significantly more challenging than fielding and, therefore, that is my main concern — they had to recall Bairstow and giving him the gloves was the right option. Is it tough on Foakes? Selection is about picking the right team, not the fairest team. Foakes would not let England down, but only one man can do the job. Bairstow's record as a wicketkeeper in Tests is better than commonly imagined, and Australia will be worried about him at No 7.

**Steve James** Of course it was harsh on Foakes because he has done nothing wrong, but it was entirely expected from my point of view — and the correct decision. Bairstow simply has to play, as long as England are certain that he is fully fit, and his preference has always been to bat at No 7 and have the gloves. He had to be coaxed into the No 5 non-keeping role last year and look how he did under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum — so just imagine what he could do under them in his more favoured role.

**Elizabeth Ammon** Bairstow needed to come back in — he's a game-changer — but dropping Foakes wasn't the solution I would have chosen. It's incredibly harsh on Foakes and he seems to be the fall guy for retaining Zak Crawley.

**John Westerby** Selection is supposed to be harsh. If a better option comes along, they get picked. Foakes has done an excellent job, but it's not as though he was averaging 50 with the bat. The prospect of Bairstow batting with the tail will make England stronger. The pertinent issue is Bairstow's durability as a wicketkeeper. If England spend long periods in the field, there will be scrutiny on his recently rehabilitated left leg amid a gruelling schedule of five Tests in seven weeks. Foakes may yet have a role to play.

**Elgan Alderman** Harsh and wrong. Foakes's wicketkeeping skill speaks for itself and with the bat he has made important runs in every series under McCullum and Stokes. He helped Joe Root over the line in the first Test of last summer against New Zealand and made an unbeaten hundred against South Africa. He was the anti- Gilchrist, a late-order oasis after the chaos above. If bare numbers excite you, Foakes has averaged more with the bat in the past 12 months than Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope and Stokes.

### WHO SHOULD OPEN THE BATTING FOR ENGLAND?

**Atherton** Opening is a specialist position, so the talk of promoting Bairstow or Stokes was just that. The only possible alternative among those selected would have been Root, who was trained as an opener all the way through his younger days and has the game for it, but he is entrenched in the middle order now. Having come so far with Crawley, I can't see the logic in changing now and Australia were more concerned by bowling at him in the previous Ashes than Rory Burns or Haseeb Hameed. It is England's weakest suit for sure, but Crawley and Ben Duckett for me.

**James** It has made for a good debate because Crawley was the only other player who could have been omitted for Bairstow, but that was never going to happen. I think that, of the present order, only Root is capable of moving up. I did once trumpet Bairstow in the role but, having got to know him better, it is a complete non-starter. Stokes's backfoot defensive technique — getting too squared up — would be exposed at the top of the order.

**Ammon** Test cricket is far more akin to white-ball cricket, in which Bairstow opens successfully. I would not have sacrificed the best wicketkeeper in the country and would have either tried to persuade Root, Stokes or Bairstow to do it. Pope had never batted at No 3 before last summer and that seems to be working out OK.

**Westerby** We're into our second decade of pondering this question, without clear answers emerging. Australia's new-ball attack will provide a stern test for England's openers and this is not the time to be introducing fresh faces. It's not sufficient to say Crawley isn't consistent enough; there has to be a compelling alternative. Alex Lees? Hameed? Keaton Jennings? The backing for Crawley's ability to influence a game decisively, albeit sporadically, has become symbolic for the "Bazball" approach. The pressure will grow, however, when those around him are not compensating for his inconsistency.

**Alderman** I would never have mooted it 12 months ago, but I would go for Stokes opening the batting, Bairstow in the middle order and Foakes keeping wicket. It is a move in keeping with the "Benball" era: lead the attack from the front, try something different. Crawley has the full support of the team but his heralded upside has been as fleeting as a demon's whisper thus far.

### WITH JOFRA ARCHER OUT FOR THE SUMMER, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR BOWLING ATTACK IF THE FIRST TEST WERE STARTING TOMORROW?

**Atherton** Assuming all are fit and conditions are as expected: James Anderson, Ollie Robinson, Mark Wood, Jack Leach and Stokes. Clearly, with five Tests in seven weeks, there will be an element of rotation during the series.

**James** So much depends on Stokes's ability to bowl. If he can, then you can play a rather samey but also rather tasty trio of Anderson, Stuart Broad and Robinson. However, Robinson has an ankle problem and England will be mindful of what happened with Anderson in 2019, when he bowled four overs in the first Test and was never seen again. So I might go for Chris Woakes on his home ground of Edgbaston in the first Test instead of Anderson, and if Robinson is unfit then Wood. Could Leach be omitted, and four seamers picked, if Stokes can't bowl?

**Ammon** Assuming Stokes is fit enough to be a fourth seamer if needed: Broad, Robinson, Woakes and Leach against Ireland; Anderson, Robinson, Wood and Leach for the first Ashes Test.

**Westerby** The best hope for the Ashes is that Stokes can play as a bowler, Robinson is able to play five Tests and Leach survives whatever Australia's batsmen throw at him. Broad, Anderson, Wood, Woakes and Matthew Potts can then rotate around that axis.

**Alderman** All the talk has been about England's (now dwindling) stock of fast bowlers, but there's nothing wrong with having three sub-90mph right-armers for the start of the series: Anderson, Broad and Robinson. Woakes, whose all-round record in England is all-timer good, could fit in for any of them. Have Wood on ice in case the early Tests do not go to plan.

### WHAT HAVE YOU MADE OF ENGLAND PLAYERS SUCH AS STOKES AND ROOT BEING AT THE IPL BUT NOT PLAYING?

**Atherton** It is a reflection on where cricket is at, on player power, and on England's pragmatic attitude: they are wary of telling the players what to do in case they get an answer they don't want to hear. I understand the pragmatism, but once the players are contracted for 12 months, I would use that element of control to ensure the best possible preparation. Quite whether the County Championship fits into that, being played in bleak conditions in April and early May, is another argument.

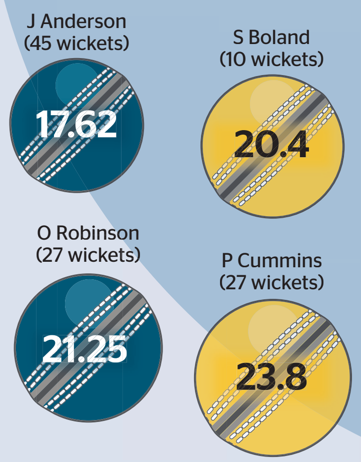
**James** We just have to get used to it these days, even if it seems so frustrat-

## Key figures in a huge Test series




PAT CUMMINS AUSTRALIA

**Best Test averages among England and Australia bowlers in past year**




Minimum 10 wickets Source:Cricinfo

## The key dates this summer

**June 1-4** One-off Test: England v Ireland, Lord's

**June 7-11** World Test Championship final: Australia v India, The Oval

**The Men's Ashes, England v Australia**

**June 16-20** First Test, Edgbaston

**June 28-July 2** Second Test, Lord's

**July 6-10** Third Test, Headingley

**July 19-23** Fourth Test, Old Trafford

**July 27-31** Fifth Test, The Oval

**The Women's Ashes, England v Australia**

**June 22-26** One-off Test, Trent Bridge

**July 1** First T20, Edgbaston

**July 5** Second T20, The Oval

**July 8** Third T20, Lord's

**July 12** First ODI, Bristol

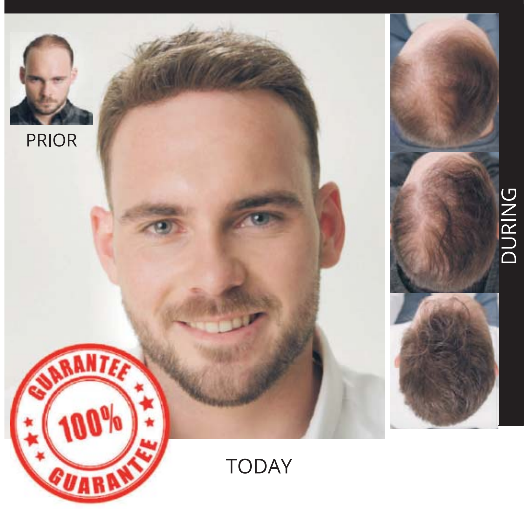
**July 16** Second ODI, Ageas Bowl

**July 18** Third ODI, Taunton

**22** Years since Australia's men won an Ashes series in England

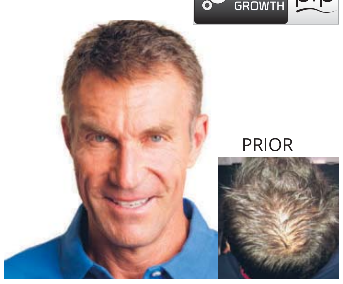
**10** Victories in 12 Tests since Brendon McCullum took charge of England

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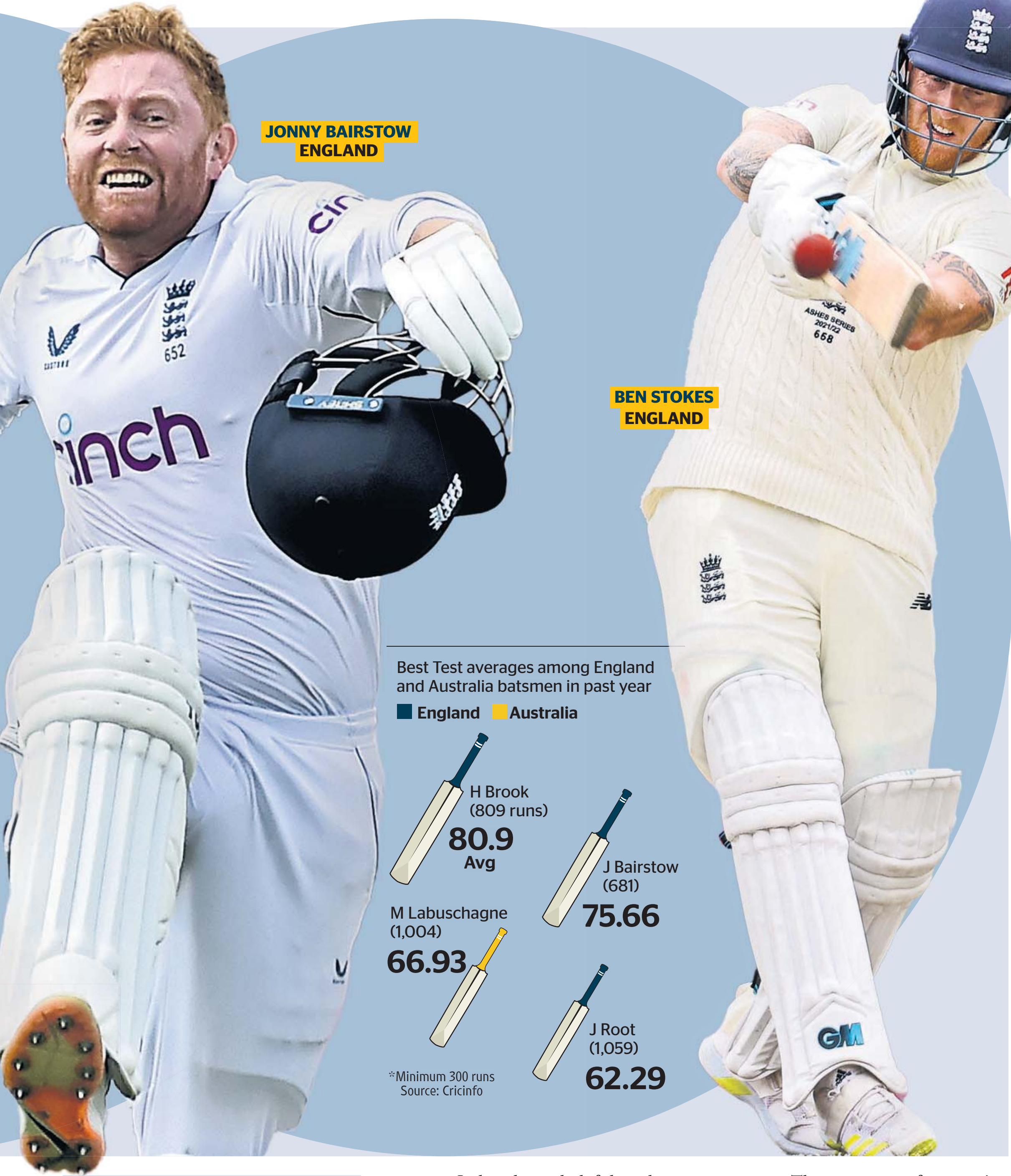

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# won and lost




**How Foakes compares**

**Best batting averages among Test wicketkeepers since Brendon McCullum became England head coach**

| Player | Runs | Average |
|---|---|---|
| S Ahmed (Pak) | 335 runs | 83.75 avg |
| R Pant (Ind) | 351 runs | 70.2 |
| L Das (Bang) | 347 runs | 69.4 |
| T Blundell (NZ) | 849 runs | 60.64 |
| L Tucker (Ire) | 289 runs | 48.16 |
| B Foakes (Eng) | 428 runs | 38.9 |
| A Carey (Aus) | 327 runs | 32.7 |
| M Rizwan (Pak) | 261 runs | 26.1 |

Minimum 200 runs Source: Cricinfo

ing for county followers. It is Root's first IPL and practice-wise he knows what he is doing, even though he has had little opportunity in the middle, so who can begrudge him the opportunity? Likewise with Stokes. He is at the stage of his career where he deserves all the money he is getting and, knowing how much this Test team means to him, he would never jeopardise that. We just have to trust these two.

**Ammon** It has been helpful to have Stokes warming the bench rather than playing — he's getting a decent payday for not doing much and saving himself for the Ashes — and Root is adamant that he has learnt more at the IPL than he would have done playing for Yorkshire in Division Two.

**WHAT HAVE YOU MADE OF AUSTRALIA'S PREPARATIONS? WHO SHOULD ENGLAND BE MOST WORRIED ABOUT?**

**Atherton** Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne are the engine room of Australia's batting and much hinges on them. Hopefully Robinson has had a close look at Smith at Hove and found a weakness! If they struggle then Australia will struggle. They have a terrific bowling attack but five Tests (effectively six with the World Test Championship final) in two months is a big ask, so how well Michael Neser and Scott Boland are able to back up Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood will be a big factor.

**James** Though I think the all-rounder Cameron Green will be influential, Labuschagne and Smith could decide the series, because it is doubtful whether David Warner can come again, and those two will need to provide the bulk of the runs.

**Westerby** The presence of a genuine all-rounder is one area in which England — through Ian Botham, Andrew Flintoff and Stokes — have often held an advantage. Australia now have Green and how well he adapts to conditions could be a compelling subplot.

**AND FINALLY, YOUR SERIES PREDICTION?**

**Atherton** I am slightly less confident than I was at the end of the winter, when England were flying. Injuries to the likes of Archer and a lack of game time and/or form in the IPL for Harry Brook, Root and Stokes has tempered the optimism somewhat. But Australia haven't won here since 2001 and England are very hard to beat at home. I'm excited by the fact it is so hard to call: a great series is in prospect, with England having a really good chance of winning.

**James** The same as last time here in 2019: 2-2.

**Ammon** England to win 3-1.

**Westerby** 3-2 England. Australia's pace attack is outstanding, but none of them are spring chickens and if England can blow a hole or two in their attack, as they did with Jason Gillespie in 2005, the cracks could begin to open.

**Alderman** 3-1 England. I'm still not convinced by Australia away from home.

# Alarm bells ring as Robinson emerges in protective boot

CONTINUED FROM BACK

summer — against Ireland at Lord's — only ten days away, Robinson's ankle is a significant worry for England.

"Ollie is not in any worse pain than he was on Saturday," Farbrace said. "Sportsmen are recommended to use a crutch these days if they are suffering from ankle injuries." The ECB, not his club, will monitor his scan and announce whether he is expected to be fit to face Ireland.

Robinson, who has taken 66 wickets in his 16 Test matches at an average of 21.27, has quickly become a key part of England's attack. He claimed four wickets, including the scalp of Australia's Marnus Labuschagne, in Glamorgan's first innings at Hove, but that he was not on the field for long in Glamorgan's second innings was a factor in their accumulating 737, the second-highest total in their history. It was also the highest second-innings total in England and the fifth highest in the second innings in all first-class cricket, but the Division Two match petered out to a draw.

The knock-on effect of that mammoth innings was that Steve Smith was denied another pre-Ashes tune-up before the match ended. The Australia batsman, who made 89 in the first innings in his last appearance for Sussex before his own international summer commences with the World Test Championship final, was instead restricted yesterday to a few overs of his occasional off spin — he said he has had his fill of bowling leg spin.

Smith did manage to extract a little turn out of this dead pitch and had Jamie Harris caught at deep square leg. Even better, his other wicket was that of Michael Neser, his compatriot, who had earlier carved him for six to go to the third century of his career. He struck a further six and 12 fours in this innings. By then the match was finished as a contest.

Smith will join up with Australia's touring party tomorrow, having enjoyed, he emphasised, his three-match



The fast bowler shakes hands with the Glamorgan team with crutch and boot

stint with Sussex, even though this amounted to only three innings.

"I'd never done county cricket before," Smith said, though he played for Kent's second XI as a youngster and knew Farbrace, who played and coached at Canterbury.

"People can say what they like about me taking part in it before the Ashes but it's not like I'm getting an advantage — I've played plenty of cricket in England in the past. And I haven't talked at all to Cheteshwar Pujara [the Sussex captain and India batsman] — a lovely guy, a top player — about the world Test final.

"Sussex have good guys with bright futures. James Coles looks really composed and compact at the crease; Oli Carter has been clean behind the stumps and Jack Carson has impressed me with his good shapes on the ball.

"I enjoyed my bowl, as that normally happens in the nets nowadays. Why have I turned to off spin? Bowling leggies is too hard."

In Division One, Alastair Cook was out for 99 as Essex drew with Nottinghamshire. The former England captain has 73 first-class hundreds but is yet to score one at Trent Bridge.

# Coach: Crawley's record is no worse than other Test openers

**Mark Baldwin**

Zak Crawley's much-debated recent England record stands up to comparison with other Test openers around the world, according to his head coach at Kent.

Crawley averages only 27.60 from his 33 Tests and little more than 30 in almost 100 first-class matches. The 25-year-old is set to open the batting with Ben Duckett when England face Ireland next month, and in the Ashes series that follows, and Matt Walker has defended his charge against critics.

"Opening the batting is the hardest job out there, but if you look at the averages of all opening batsmen in Test cricket over the past few years then Zak is no different to anyone else," Walker said. "When you have to go and do it [open the innings] every time then there will be patches when you don't score runs, but my view is that England see what we see — a really talented player who is doing a really good job."

**29**
**Crawley has been dismissed for a single-figure score in almost half of his Test innings (29 of 61)**

Crawley has scored 403 runs at 36.63 in 11 County Championship innings this season — including 170 against Essex and two other scores above 50. He made 19 and 31 in Kent's crushing ten-wicket defeat by the Division One leaders Surrey at the Oval, playing some lovely strokes but flattering only to deceive in both innings.

"He's been in a really good place and he's worked very hard on his game," Walker told BBC Radio Kent. "He may not have scored quite the amount of runs he would have liked, but he's still played some brilliant innings for us and in my opinion looks back to his very best.

"It's only a matter of time before he's scoring heavily for England again and I'm hoping for a really big series for him against Australia. It just needs that one score and then the noise quietens down. That's sport, that's life."

# Sport


**Koepka's rebel victory**
American's US PGA triumph is first major won by LIV player
Page 51





**A final for the ages**
La Rochelle's Euro success shows rugby at its very best
Alex Lowe, pages 52-53




TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER




Ilkay Gundogan lifts the Premier League trophy yesterday after City clinched a fifth title in six seasons. Full coverage, The Game, pages 2-5

# 'Europe is our defining test'

## Guardiola says his title-winners must deliver in Champions League to be considered true greats

**Ian Whittell**

Pep Guardiola last night claimed his players are the talk of the footballing world but admitted that Manchester City must win the Champions League to be considered one of the greatest teams of all time.

City yesterday lifted the Premier League trophy after sealing a fifth title in six years under Guardiola, but they have come up short so far in Europe.

They face Inter Milan in the Champions League final in Istanbul on June 10 and are on track for the Treble, with an FA Cup final against Manchester United seven days earlier at Wembley.

Guardiola hailed his team's triumph but admitted that his time in English football would not be "complete" unless he wins Europe's biggest club honour.

"Of course, we have to win in Europe, otherwise people will say our time here was not complete," the City manager said after his side's 1-0 win over Chelsea a day after the league title had been confirmed by Arsenal's loss to Nottingham Forest.

"But at the same time, just in case we are not able to do it against Inter or next year, it is unfair to say that what we have done with five Premier Leagues in six years is not extraordinary. Everybody in world football — players, managers, sporting directors — knows how exceptional it is.

"There is a part that sometimes can be unfair — the fact you have to win the Champions League to get credit or value to what you have done. But you have to accept it and I think it's good. I know it will not be complete if we don't win the Champions League."

As the players celebrated at the Etihad Stadium, the defender Kyle Walker said that winning the Treble would allow his team to be considered among the greatest of all time. And Guardiola said the focus would now shift quickly to the two finals.

"Rest assured we are not finished," Guardiola, 52, added. "We have the FA Cup against our bitter rivals and then the Champions League. We will celebrate tonight and then move on to try to create history.

"The Treble would be fantastic but there is a lot of football to be played. To say we are up there with one of the greatest Premier League teams of all time, we have to conquer some of that.

"To achieve that, we could then start talking about being one of the greatest."

# Concern grows over Robinson

**Ivo Tennant**

Concern is growing over the fitness of Ollie Robinson after the England fast bowler was seen wearing a protective boot on his damaged left ankle yesterday.

Robinson is expected to be a key figure in the Ashes, starting on June 16, but the alarm was raised when he missed two sessions of Sussex's County Championship match with Glamorgan at Hove on Saturday. The 29-year-old was absent again yesterday, as the match ended in a draw, but emerged from the changing room to shake hands with the opposition wearing a boot on his left foot and using a crutch to walk.

Robinson will undergo a scan today to determine if there is any fracture. Paul Farbrace, the Sussex head coach, insisted the boot was precautionary. However, with the first Test of the

**Continued on page 55**

# Vinícius: La Liga is racist

**Glenn Ebrey**

Vinícius Júnior has claimed that "racism is normal in La Liga" and described Spain as "a country of racists" after being subjected to monkey chants and abuse during Real Madrid's 1-0 defeat away to Valencia last night.

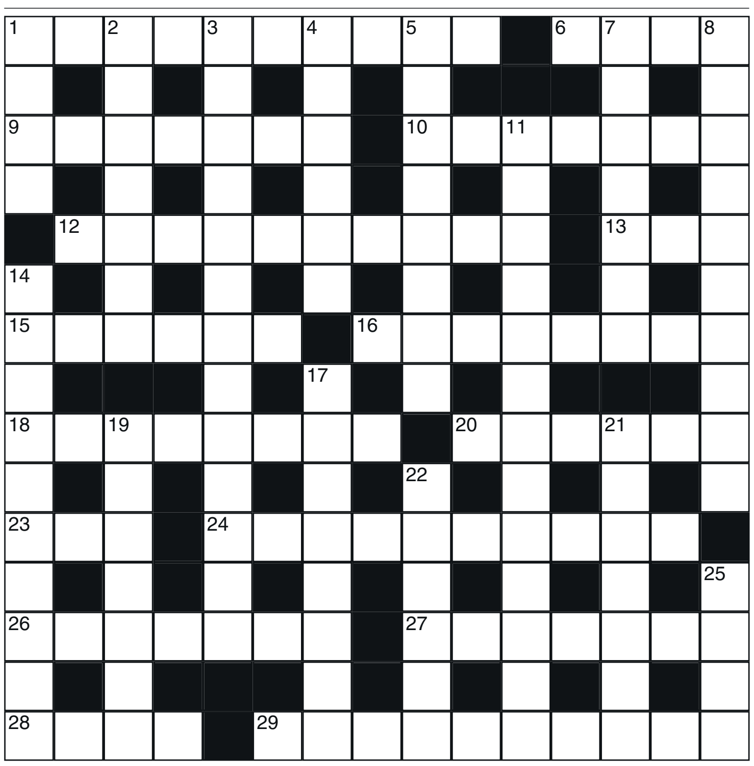
Play was delayed for about ten minutes midway through the second half after Vinícius, 22, appeared to be racially abused by a Valencia fan. He has previously been subjected to racist behaviour this season, while an effigy of the player was hanged from a bridge before the derby against Atletico in January.

"It wasn't the first time, nor the second, nor the third," Vinícius, who was sent off in added time, tweeted. "Racism is normal in La Liga.

"Today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists."

**Full story, The Game, page 14**

## Times Crossword 28,609



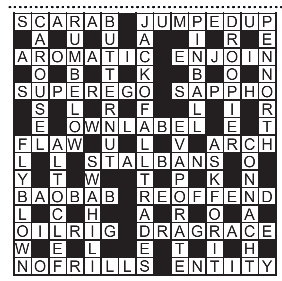
**ACROSS**

**1** Orbital motion covering only 40 per cent of orbit is a chaotic situation (4-3-3)
**6** Fine American vessel in trouble (4)
**9** Knight set to participate in Australian service (7)
**10** Radio operator's character is unvarying (7)
**12** Late supporting worker (10)
**13** Wrong book removed from account (3)
**15** What's rum? "Alcoholic drink without head" should capture it (6)
**16** Funny caption about Liberal not motivated by sex? (8)
**18** Dishonest scheme giving house to patient fellow (3-2,3)
**20** Transformed room with two pieces of lurid gilded stuff (6)
**23** Resistance when getting a parking charge (3)
**24** Caper the writer's presented in flabby weak conclusion (10)
**26** Disreputable cut limiting a French book offering little light (7)
**27** Prominent statement in court lacking power (7)
**28** Record no openings for this employee (4)
**29** For dispensing, try a cheapo chemist (10)

**DOWN**

**1** Melee to become untidy at the edges (4)
**2** Intellectual urge picked up with professor finally leaving (7)
**3** Join the ranks, leading line with excellent resolve (4,4,5)
**4** Stay on the left? (6)
**5** Excellent litre, supported by University expert in beer (8)
**7** Crashed out, instrument not entirely ideal (7)
**8** Restaged musical with unusual superficial likeness (10)
**11** Uncertain blend of tea and dinnertime (13)
**14** Study that involves European city coming in second? (10)
**17** Son ignoring encouragement to drink not coming from senior level (6-2)
**19** Bow of vessel that's raised speed at sea (7)
**21** Company elevated operatic item with introduction of new wind instrument (7)
**22** Give form to row, omitting last point (6)
**25** Not looking good, using library, overlooking contents (4)

**Prize solution 28,602**



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THE TIMES
# thegame
All the action from the weekend
MONDAY MAY 22 2023

PAGES 6-7
**Leeds lose control of their destiny after disastrous West Ham defeat**

PAGE 16
**Dortmund set to dethrone Bayern as champions of Germany**

# The first of many?

As Haaland enjoys his first trophy at the Etihad, City aim to make history

HENRY WINTER, PAGES 2-5




CATHERINE IVILL/GETTY IMAGES



Chelsea, including former City star Raheem Sterling, centre left, give the Champions a guard of honour. Guardiola rested some of his most expensive players meaning that City's bench at kick-off, below, was worth £479.3 million





# City now two steps from

| Manchester City | Chelsea |
|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |
| Álvarez 12 | |

**RATINGS**

**Manchester City** (4-1-4-1): S Ortega 7 — K Walker 7, M Akanji 6 (J Stones 56min, 6), A Laporte 6 (Rodri 77, 6), S Gómez 6 (K De Bruyne 77, 6) — K Phillips 7 — R Mahrez 7 (E Haaland 73), R Lewis 7, P Foden 7, C Palmer 8 — J Álvarez 7.

**Chelsea** (3-4–2-1): K Arrizabalaga 6 — W Fofana 5, T Silva 6, T Chalobah 5 — C Azpilicueta 6, E Fernández 5, R Loftus-Cheek 6 (C Chukwuemeka 80), L Hall 5 (K Koulibaly 80) — R Sterling 7 (N Madueke 69, 5), C Gallagher 6 (M Mudryk 69, 5) — K Havertz 5 (C Pulisic 85). **Booked** Fernández, Havertz.

**Referee** M Oliver. **Attendance** 53,490.

**HENRY WINTER**



Chief Football Writer
At the Etihad Stadium

Manchester City enjoyed another blue-riband success, another blue-ribbon trophy, and another step towards the Treble. Julián Álvarez struck a one-sided game's one goal but, in truth, the divide was so wide. City's second-string strangled Chelsea, whose wretched season cannot end quickly enough for them while City's continues to go from strength to strength, soon from here (via Brighton and Brentford) to Wembley to Istanbul to immortality, they hope.

These 90 minutes seemed almost incidental. City fans came for the party, waiting for their revered former goalkeeper, Alex Williams, to present the trophy. Pep Guardiola and his players also received their medals from Richard Masters, the chief executive of the Premier League which has charged their club with breaches of financial rules. What a few days at the Etihad. After Real, the surreal.

The presentation was delayed by a massed pitch invasion at the final whistle with fans clutching smoke bombs and banners declaring "The Treble is on. 1 down, 2 to go". They did knee slides and one fan ran off with one of the match balls. The announcer appealed for them to clear the field, and played *Sit Down* by James before stewards and security finally regained control.

Guardiola eventually led his players up, followed first by Ederson with hair dyed blue for the occasion. John Stones received a deafening salute as he strode up. Jack Grealish went down the line of staff, high-fiving and tickling, before heading up. As the players were called up one by one, Kyle Walker and Kevin De Bruyne waited at the back, waving to familiar faces in the crowd, and briefly joined by Erling Haaland, who engaged in a mock fight with Walker, who pushed and pulled. It was one of the few times this season anybody had fully got to grips with Haaland. Or Walker for that matter.

Their captain, Ilkay Gundogan, did the lift, blue confetti filled the air, Haaland carried the trophy towards the fans, started an interview with Sky Sports' Geoff Shreeves then broke off to dance in front of the South Stand. The away section there had long been deserted.

However meaningless as a contest, this fixture against Chelsea was still fitting. It proved that having money is one thing, and investing it wisely is another. Chelsea spent £585 million in two windows under Todd Boehly and trailed within 12 minutes to a City side showing nine changes. The £70 million Wesley Fofana, an undeniable talent struggling to produce his best form, passed carelessly into midfield. The ball was easily picked off by Kalvin Phillips, who has still to prove his worth here but instantly picked out the home-grown Cole Palmer.

The 21-year-old attacker from Wythenshawe caressed the ball forward five times with his left foot, and with his sixth angled it to Álvarez. The £14 million Argentinian, now a World Cup winner, took a touch with his right foot, steering the ball across Thiago Silva, and then a second to sweep his shot past Kepa Arrizabalaga. City's reserves led and retained control.

Such is their strength in depth, and the understanding throughout the squad of their manager's tactics, that it felt almost seamless, certainly in approach. Palmer understudied Grealish while Álvarez filled the Haaland front role. Phil Foden, collecting his fifth Premier League medal at 22, schemed in behind as De Bruyne does so fabulously.

Guardiola's regulars, who will

**HOW THEY STAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Man City (C) | 36 | 28 | 4 | 4 | 93 | 31 | 62 | 88 |
| Arsenal | 37 | 25 | 6 | 6 | 83 | 43 | 40 | 81 |
| Newcastle | 36 | 19 | 12 | 5 | 67 | 32 | 35 | 69 |
| Man United | 36 | 21 | 6 | 9 | 52 | 41 | 11 | 69 |
| Liverpool | 37 | 19 | 9 | 9 | 71 | 43 | 28 | 66 |
| Brighton | 36 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 70 | 50 | 20 | 61 |
| Aston Villa | 37 | 17 | 7 | 13 | 49 | 45 | 4 | 58 |
| Tottenham | 37 | 17 | 6 | 14 | 66 | 62 | 4 | 57 |
| Brentford | 37 | 14 | 14 | 9 | 57 | 46 | 11 | 56 |
| Fulham | 37 | 15 | 7 | 15 | 54 | 51 | 3 | 52 |
| Crystal Palace | 37 | 11 | 11 | 15 | 39 | 48 | -9 | 44 |
| Chelsea | 36 | 11 | 10 | 15 | 36 | 42 | -6 | 43 |
| Wolves | 37 | 11 | 8 | 18 | 31 | 53 | -22 | 41 |
| West Ham | 37 | 11 | 7 | 19 | 41 | 53 | -12 | 40 |
| Bournemouth | 37 | 11 | 6 | 20 | 37 | 70 | -33 | 39 |
| Nott'm Forest | 37 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 37 | 67 | -30 | 37 |
| Everton | 37 | 7 | 12 | 18 | 33 | 57 | -24 | 33 |
| Leeds | 37 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 47 | 74 | -27 | 31 |
| Leicester | 36 | 8 | 6 | 22 | 49 | 67 | -18 | 30 |
| Southmptn (R) | 37 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 32 | 69 | -37 | 24 |

return for the FA Cup final on June 3 and the climax of the Champions League on June 10, are on another level but the shadow squad remains impressive. Depending on whether Gundogan and/or Bernardo Silva leave, Guardiola really needs only a left back. City will inevitably start next season as overwhelming favourites to become the first team in English history to win four titles on the spin.

If City do the Treble they will stand alongside, but not yet ahead of, the great Liverpool 1983-84 team of Alan Hansen, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness, and the 1998-99 Manchester United team of Peter Schmeichel, Roy Keane and the Class of '92. City are deserved champions this season and timed their charge to the line perfectly as highlighted by a run which reads: WWWWWWWWWWWWW. Arsenal, who topped the table for so long, will reflect ruefully on William Saliba's injury, which deprived their defence of much of its composure, passing, interception and leadership. Arsenal slowed as City accelerated.

City still have to fight off those 115 charges of rule breaches laid against them by Masters' organisation, which will take time, plenty of it, and lawyers, plenty of them. Until then, the blue sky over the Etihad will still have clouds, and not simply from the acrid smoke following the pitch invasions and then the fireworks that accompanied Gundogan's lift.

In the short-term, the charges acted almost as additional adrenalin, fuel to their fire, intensifying a sense of grievance with the outside world from media to authorities that exists here.

A City official once stood in the press room harrumphing at the TV screen showing pundits with Manchester United and Liverpool affiliations opining on City. That has changed with the arrival of the livewire Micah Richards on the box, and latterly the thoughtful Joleon Lescott, but the simmering sense of a siege mentality endures here.

Yet only the truly blinkered would deny the brilliance of City's football, and the game-changing genius of Guardiola. One fan amidst the sea of sky blue floating into the ground wore a T-shirt emblazoned with Guardiola's image and the words "mind-blowing, one touch, fast flowing… it's Pep-si". Guardiola

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER BRADLEY ORMESHER; JON SUPER/AP; ISAAC PARKIN/MCFC/GETTY IMAGES





Guardiola shared a joke with Grealish on the podium, left, after City fans celebrated another title on the pitch at the Etihad, above, and Haaland savoured his first taste of Premier League glory with dad Alfie, below



# immortality

makes good players such as Stones and Grealish exceptional. Guardiola made Walker captain in his much-changed side and the right back has matured into an elite level defender under Guardiola. The hugely promising teenager, Rico Lewis, has played as an inverted right back and started here in midfield, and shone. Palmer improves and improves.

It was not always a land of silk and money here. Dotted in the crowd were retro shirts of the red-and-black-striped 1969 FA Cup final version, the simple 1972 classic graced by such greats as the late Colin Bell. Spotted among them were Brother tops from 1988 home to the purple 1993 away.

Now here was Lewis kicking off, Palmer providing the assist, and another moment to delight the City faithful when the ball fizzed between Lewis, Foden and Palmer in a left-sided break. Chelsea continued their impressions of athletes in quicksand. They managed occasional moments of promise, and Conor Gallagher, typically tireless, hit a post.

A forlorn-looking Frank Lampard made changes but nothing could change Chelsea's mood and they slumped to their seventh loss in nine games under him. Chelsea will have to wait for Mauricio Pochettino to arrive like the cavalry in Fulham Road, to get rid of the under-achievers, reinvigorate those struggling for confidence and recruit more hunger.

Chelsea fans were defiant but some began filtering out 10 minutes from time. "Cheerio," chanted the home fans who were soon saying hello again to the Premier League trophy.

## He is a bit weird, but I love Guardiola, says Grealish

**PAUL HIRST**

Jack Grealish declared his love for Pep Guardiola, admitting that it is "weird" that he had an answer for any troubles that Manchester City encountered en route to winning the Premier League title.

Guardiola claimed the fifth title of his seven-year reign after Arsenal lost 1-0 away to Nottingham Forest on Saturday.

Like some previous City recruits, Grealish struggled in his maiden season, but the 27-year-old playmaker had a starring role in this year's triumph, scoring five goals and setting up 11 more in 48 appearances in all competitions.

"I can't speak any higher of him," Grealish said of his manager. "He's a bit weird how he knows everything, but it's a pleasure to work with him, I love him."

Grealish's importance was underlined by the fact that he was rested for yesterday's dead rubber against Chelsea, which City won 1-0.

Grealish has started 39 matches this season, which is eight more than last term.

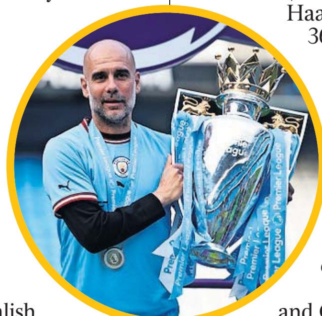
"This title feels better," Grealish said. "I have played more of a part, I feel back to my normal self."

Grealish, who joined City from Aston Villa for £100 million in 2021, hailed the impact made by top scorer Erling Haaland.

"I've got a great relationship with him," Grealish said of Haaland, who has scored 36 league goals. "We come into training together, we live in the same building and I've assisted him a few times. When you have a relationship like that off the pitch it makes it easier on the pitch."

Grealish's England and City team-mate Kalvin Phillips joined City last summer from Leeds United but he had to wait until yesterday to make his first league start for the club.

"It's been unbelievably tough," Phillips said. "It's probably the lowest point confidence-wise in my career but the leaders around me have kept me going."



**Guardiola lifted the Premier League trophy for a fifth time in seven years**

# TONY CASCARINO



Weekend talking points

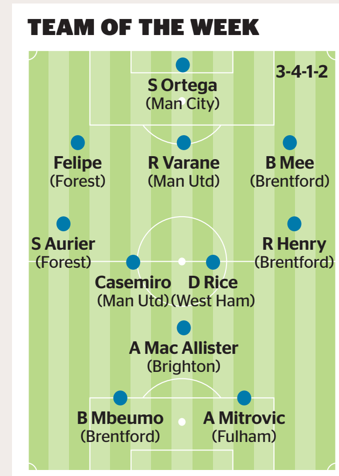
## Pep has really hard job to improve complete squad

Pep Guardiola has won his fifth Premier League title and this team and squad feels like the most complete of all his triumphant sides. It poses the question, what next for this squad? Not on the pitch, where they are now favourites to win the Treble, but off it. Given how good this squad is, there is the real possibility that City don't make a statement signing this summer — I'm not sure they need one. The old adage is that you must keep adding to and improving your squad, bringing in fresh faces to challenge the stars who are there. But who could improve this team?

Declan Rice is one of the elite players set to move this summer but if he joined City would he definitely start? Rodri is arguably the best defensive midfielder in the world right now and the likes of Kevin De Bruyne are alongside him.

You could make an argument for them investing in a full back and Guardiola may well do that but I wouldn't be surprised if it wasn't a big name. Nathan Aké, John Stones and Manuel Akanji have all been brilliant in different spells. They still have Kyle Walker who was superb against Real Madrid and Vinícius Jr and they have Rico Lewis coming through. They won their past two titles without having a regular, recognised striker and then this summer they signed Erling Haaland. That, to me, completed their team. Guardiola is ruthless and relentless in his ambition but maybe he'll look around Europe and realise he's already got the best of the best in his squad.

**Tony Cascarino on City's three key wins: pages 4-5**




### Leeds simply too fragile to sit back and defend

Leeds United had the mindset of a relegation-bound side yesterday. They were full of belief until they went 1-0 up, but Rodrigo's opener was the worst thing that could have happened because they decided to sit back thereafter.

Despite the arrival of Sam Allardyce, Leeds remain too fragile to defend a one-goal lead for more than 70 minutes. Luke Ayling often leaves space behind him on the right, while playing Robin Koch in midfield did not work. West Ham United took full advantage, coming from behind to win and making it seven goals conceded by Leeds in the three matches under Allardyce.

This was a pivotal opportunity for Leeds to boost their survival hopes. But they now need Everton to drop points at home to Bournemouth this Sunday to have a prayer of staying up. I wouldn't bank on it.

### Lopsided Arsenal need to be less predictable

Are Arsenal a little lopsided as a team going forward? They attack down the right-hand side an awful lot through Ben White and Bukayo Saka. The likes of Gabriel Martinelli have played well off the left but in their build-up it is often the opposite flank they look to play down. As the season has progressed it has made them look a little bit one-dimensional and predictable, especially when they are chasing the game as they were on Saturday against Nottingham Forest. They have also given away too many cheap goals from poor passes. It's not even the less experienced players making these mistakes either — Thomas Partey and Martin Odegaard have both been guilty in big games. It's been a great season for Mikel Arteta but these two factors are things he'll be looking at.

### Tottenham's big-money signings fail to deliver

Tanguy Ndombele, Richarlison, Cristian Romero, Pedro Porro and Davinson Sánchez. They are Tottenham Hotspur's five record signings. Whatever you say about managerial changes and the players not stepping up, the recruitment at that club has been shocking. As well as these poor signings it's rare that any of the young players or cheaper deals improve or go on to excel for the club. Other than Harry Kane and Son Heung-min, the youth players and signings consistently fall short. The club needs an overhaul.

### Misfiring Núñez could be a flop like Werner

This is a huge summer for Liverpool. Some big names will leave, they need new faces and they've got a major issue to resolve: Darwin Núñez. He's had the odd moment where it's clicked but with Luis Díaz and Diogo Jota back he looks nowhere near the starting XI. Cody Gakpo is also ahead of him in the pecking order. I hope I'm wrong but he's reminding me of Timo Werner at Chelsea — lots of running, effort and promise but ultimately falling short. He needs a big pre-season with lots of goals.

# Pep to twist again after triumph of tactical invention

**PAUL HIRST**



There were still two hours to go until kick-off, but hundreds of Manchester City fans had already gathered in front of the Colin Bell Stand to get a prime position for the arrival of the newly crowned Premier League champions.

About half a dozen lads had climbed on some concrete pillars and were singing City songs while hoisting a flag above their heads. "Because we need each other," read the lettering in the middle of the blue-and-white flag, a lyric borrowed from the Oasis song *Acquiesce*.

"Cos we've got Guardiola…so glad you're mine," they sang to the tune of *Glad All Over* by The Dave Clark Five.

They realise more than anyone else that City would not have beaten Arsenal to the title had it not been for Pep Guardiola. They were fully aware that City would not have lifted the Premier League trophy in five of the past six seasons without the Catalan's drive, his motivation, powerful dressing-room speeches and — perhaps most importantly — his tactical innovations.

Guardiola alluded to this in his pre-match press conference on Friday. "You cannot play the same way for six or seven seasons, for two reasons," the City manager said. "First, you have different players. And second, the opponents don't defend the same way against you, because they know you. They discover the secrets you have. They do a countersystem and you have to create another system, offensively and defensively."

Guardiola, in essence, has had to reinvent his team every season. Every year he tries something new, whether it be a tweak in formation or the redeployment of a player in a new position.

This year's innovation has come at the back. When City are in possession, one member of the back four (usually John Stones) moves into midfield to form a double pivot alongside Rodri. The attacking midfielders, such as Kevin De Bruyne and Ilkay Gundogan, try to penetrate the penalty area. Rodri and Stones operate about 15 or 20 yards behind them, with the purpose of trying to win the ball back high up the pitch and stopping a counterattack.

Stones, Rico Lewis and Manuel Akanji have performed the role well this season.

Guardiola rested Stones yesterday, so Sergio Gómez, the left back, was the man who tucked into midfield, this time alongside Kalvin Phillips, who started ahead of Rodri.

The Spaniard performed well, popping off passes to Phillips and the attackers despite coming under considerable pressure from Thiago Silva, the Chelsea centre back.

When Guardiola first started using an inverted full back shortly before Christmas, Lewis was the most accomplished performer in that role. Guardiola was impressed by the 18-year-old's positional discipline and his ability to pass the ball under pressure. As the season progressed, Stones has become the best player in the position, though. Three years ago Stones's confidence was at rock-bottom. He was unable to get into the team. Last Wednesday he was running rings around Real Madrid's midfield.

"It's such a unique position," Stones said. "I've had to learn and adapt to my personal ability but I have enjoyed it.



Walker clings to Stones, who has grown in stature

"The manager has been amazing at what he's got across in terms of what he wants from me in that position. It's up to me to implement what he wants. It's given me a new outlook."

That sums up Guardiola's genius. He can broaden the minds of his players, teach them how to use their skills differently and play in several positions, so long as they buy into his ideas.

It is something that Guardiola has been doing throughout his coaching career. He turned Philipp Lahm into a holding midfielder at Bayern Munich, and enabled Joshua Kimmich to play at right back, centre back and in central midfield.

Stones and Lewis are not the only ones to learn new roles under Guardiola at City. In his first season, the Catalan used Aleksandar Kolarov, a left back by trade, as a ball-playing centre back, and moved Jesús Navas from right wing to right back.

The following year, Guardiola deployed the midfielders Fabian Delph and Oleksandr Zinchenko at left back after Benjamin Mendy suffered a serious knee injury.

João Cancelo moved from right back to left back during his time at City and occasionally played as a quasi-No10 before falling out with his manager and joining Bayern on loan.

After working under Guardiola for a few years, Phil Foden is capable of playing on the wing or in central midfield, as is Bernardo Silva. Fernandinho played a season at centre back. Rodri, another defensive midfielder, is so accomplished as a centre back that he played there for Spain during the World Cup in Qatar. He ended yesterday's match playing alongside Stones at centre back.

Raheem Sterling, De Bruyne, Ferran Torres, Silva, Gundogan and Riyad Mahrez have played up front for City.

Other teams have started copying City's system and have been working on a plan to stop them. Guardiola, therefore, will have to come up with another tweak to his system next season. He will not mind, though. It is the sort of challenge he relishes.

## TONY CASCARINO'S THREE KEY WINS



**CITY 4-2 CRYSTAL PALACE, AUGUST 27**

This game gave us an early glimpse of how devastating Erling Haaland was going to be, as he scored his first hat-trick in English football to help City overcome a 2-0 half-time deficit.

The striker gave a clinic in versatile finishing. His three goals revealed his threat from crosses, smart positioning, lightning speed and remarkable strength. Palace are a strong counterattacking side that have caused City problems in recent seasons, so this comeback indicated that the minor deficiencies of the Pep Guardiola era were being eradicated.

**CITY 6-3 MAN UTD, OCTOBER 2**



Although City have been superior to United for several seasons, blowing away your local rivals is always special. United travelled to the Etihad Stadium in solid form under Erik ten Hag but this derby was one-way traffic, with City 4-0 up at half-time and 6-1 ahead by the 73rd minute.

Haaland got another hat-trick, while Phil Foden also scored three. Foden has been reduced to an impact substitute over the season, yet he proved here that he can dominate big games. City are blessed with so much depth.

## GUARDIOLA'S FIVE CITY TITLES

**How the starting XI changed**

**100**
**points accumulated — the most in a Premier League season**

**2017-18**




**14**
**games won to end the season and overhaul Liverpool**

**2018-19**




# Xhaka: It will be more difficult next year

**CHARLOTTE DUNCKER**

Mikel Arteta and the Arsenal board need to work out how to take the club to the next level if they are to challenge for the league title next season, according to Granit Xhaka.

Defeat by Nottingham Forest on Saturday confirmed Manchester City as champions for the third season in a row, which was a huge blow to Arsenal who spent 248 days at the top of the table before a drop in form during the final few weeks caused the title to slip away.

Three consecutive draws followed by defeat away to City last month gave Pep Guardiola's side the advantage before Arsenal slipped up against Brighton and then Forest.

"I am the wrong guy to speak about it," Xhaka, who is expected to join Bayer Leverkusen this summer, said when asked what Arsenal need to do to close the gap on City. "You have the coach, you have the guys that are upstairs, they know maybe better than me what's the next step for this club. But, it's maybe difficult to speak now about what happens next because we are sad, but we have to keep going."

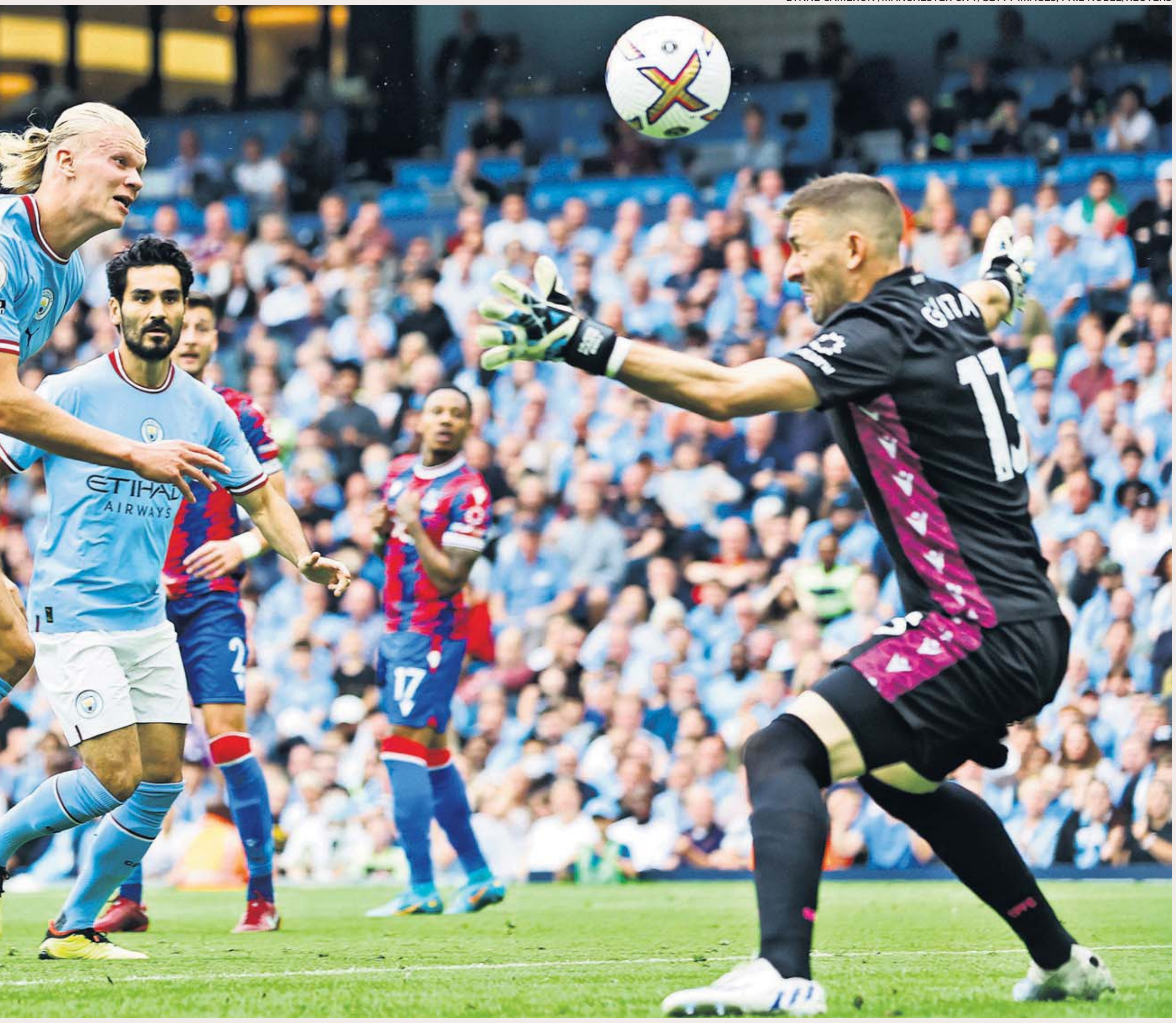
The past two times Arsenal won the title, in 2002 and 2004, they finished runners-up the season before and Arteta will be hoping he has a group that can bridge the gap to the top next season. But Xhaka thinks the next campaign will be even tougher.

"We played a great season but we have to take the next step because it will be much more difficult next season," he said. "We know that. That's why the board and the coach will decide what will happen."

While there are doubts about his future and what Arsenal need to do to take the next step, the 30-year-old is sure of one thing; that they have the right man to lead them forward in Arteta. "He is more than the right manager for this team," he said.

**Forest v Arsenal report, page 7**

LYNNE CAMERON /MANCHESTER CITY/GETTY IMAGES; PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS







**ARSENAL 1-3 CITY, FEBRUARY 15**

This win crystallised just how tough it would be for Arsenal to hold off City. Guardiola's side have had multiple players, old and new, step up this season, as the scoresheet in this game illustrated. Kevin De Bruyne was typically superb and got the opener, Jack Grealish marked a year where he has taken huge strides by restoring City's lead and then Haaland, of course, put the result beyond doubt. Arsenal struggled to live with their visitors and this defeat hinted that they would ultimately be usurped by the winning machine.

**12**
**consecutive away wins between December and May — a Premier League record**

**2020-21**




**3**
**goals against Aston Villa in last 15 minutes of the season to win 3-2 and snatch title**

**2021-22**




**5**
**titles in six seasons, only the third English team to do so**

**2022-23**




# De Zerbi warns: Boost squad or risk everything

| Brighton | Southampton |
|---|---|
| **3** | **1** |
| Ferguson 29, 40<br>Gross 69 | Elyounoussi 58 |

**RATINGS**
**Brighton** (4-2-3-1) J Steele 6 — J Veltman 7 (D Undav 74min), L Dunk 7, L Colwill 7 (J—P van Hecke 88), P Estupiñán 7 — P Gross 7, M Caicedo 7 — J Enciso 7 (F Buonanotte 45, 6), A Mac Allister, K Mitoma 8 (B Gilmour 88) — E Ferguson 8 (D Welbeck 65, 7). **Booked** Veltman, Buonanotte.
**Southampton** (4-1-4-1): A McCarthy 6 — J Bree 6 (T Livramento 75), J Bednarek 4, Lycano 5, K Walker-Peters 7 — R Lavia 6 (K Doyle 84) — T Walcott 7, J Ward-Prowse 6, C Alcaraz 6 (S Armstrong 70, 6), M Elyounoussi 7 (K Sulemana 70, 6) — J Aribo 5 (D Ballard 70, 6). **Booked** Bednarek, Alcaraz, Elyanoussi, Ward-Prowse, Bree.
**Referee** P Tierney. **Attendance** 31,507.

**TOM RODDY**

Milan or Monaco? Lisbon or Leverkusen? The only question for Roberto De Zerbi and his brilliant Brighton & Hove Albion side now is where: where will this European tour take them? After a campaign such as this, no opponent on the continent should underestimate the Premier League's great disrupters.

For so long this season, the question was whether Brighton could sustain such splendid form and outmuscle the monied men of English football. A place in Europe was secured by this victory over Southampton, and the top-six spots are all but guaranteed. Only a heavy defeat away to Aston Villa on the final day of the season, and a seismic swing in goal difference would cost them a place in the Europa League.

"We need another point because we want to play in Europa League, not in the Conference," De Zerbi said to rapturous applause after the final whistle at the Amex Stadium. Behind him was this eclectic group of overachievers. From World Cup-winner Alexis Mac Allister to the reinvigorated Danny Welbeck, 32, and long-time club servant Lewis Dunk, who first appeared for Brighton in League One 13 years ago. "I didn't believe it could happen when I made my debut," he said. "It's reality now, we're in Europe."

The victory that got them there was not without its bumps. Evan Ferguson's first-half double against a wounded Southampton side, making their first appearance since being relegated last weekend, appeared to be sending De Zerbi's team on their way to a comfortable win. But a rare five-minute burst from the visiting side after the break threatened to put a pin in the premature celebrations, with Theo Walcott seemingly scoring an equaliser after Mohamed Elyounoussi had pulled a goal back with a glancing header. VAR found Walcott to be offside and Southampton had little left in the tank.

The threat was enough to bring Brighton back to life and Pascal Gross struck Brighton's third. De Zerbi was still expressing his fury at misplaced passes and movements. His demanding nature is not reserved only for players.

The Italian celebrated the victory but, with some players expected to leave the club this summer, De Zerbi warned of the need to invest in the squad as he pointed to the history of clubs who qualified for Europe and found themselves fighting off relegation in the subsequent season.

"The history of Premier League explains that when you achieve Europe the next year you can find yourself in the bottom of the table," De Zerbi said. "Now is the crucial moment for the club, because we have to build a squad to improve our level. We have to work hard in this transfer market session and organise better, better, better."

De Zerbi's ambitions are clear. "Our target inside the dressing room was the Champions League," he said. "I think in March we were playing fantastic. There was the possibility, then we lost points at Palace and Leeds, here against Fulham, Brentford. We have lost too many points for the Champions League target."

"Tony [Bloom, the Brighton owner] knows very well my ideas, my opinion. For me it is an honour to work here and continue to work here. I never thought to change team, I never thought to go back in Italy with another team or Premier League team. I want to stay. I don't know how many years but I'm enjoying working with these people."

This victory was another reminder of the talent in his squad. Ferguson's second goal, the highlight of the match, meant Brighton have recorded more goals by teenagers in the Premier League than any of the other teams combined. Yet the plaudits were rightly directed at the marvellous Kaoru Mitoma who raced down the left, outmuscled Romeo Lavia and arched a cross to Ferguson with the outside of his right boot.

De Zerbi promised to retain the style regardless who Brighton face in Europe next season. "We can lose the game, yes, but we can't lose our style, our DNA," he said.



Southampton were so well known for that once upon a time. The only positive for them was the sight of Tino Livramento making his first appearance in 13 months after an ACL injury suffered at the same ground.

Southampton hit the 40-point mark that day, securing safety. Livramento returned with the prospect of trips to Rotherham and Huddersfield next season.

Russell Martin is set to be the new head coach at St Mary's and one of his first tasks will be working out who will be a part of the team next season. While one south coast club requires a reset, the other is soaring.

**De Zerbi is aware of relegation battles that followed European campaigns**

# Abject Leeds fail to control

| West Ham | Leeds |
| --- | --- |
| **3** | **1** |
| Rice 31, Bowen 72, Lanzini 90+4 | Rodrigo 17 |

**RATINGS**
**West Ham** (4-2-3-1): L Fabianski 6 — V Coufal 6, K Zouma 6 (T Kehrer 45min, 6), A Ogbonna 6, Emerson 7 — T Soucek 6, D Rice 7 — J Bowen 7 (M Lanzini 84), L Paquetá 8, P Fornals 7 (B Johnson 90+3) — D Ings 6 (D Mubama 90+4).
**Booked** Paquetá.
**Leeds United** (4-3-3): J Robles 6 — L Ayling 5, R Kristensen 4, M Wöber 4, P Struijk 5 (S Greenwood 84) — W McKennie 6 (M Roca 84), R Koch 5, A Forshaw 5 (B Aaronson 62, 5) — Rodrigo 5, P Bamford 7 (W Gnonto 34, 6), J Harrison 6 (C Summerville 62, 5).
**Booked** Summerville, Rodrigo, Koch.
**Referee** P Bankes.

**JAMES GHEERBRANT**

No team have surrendered more points from winning positions this season than Leeds United. In this crucial match, they got themselves in front, then simply capitulated against a West Ham team with nothing but pride to play for. Their defending verged on calamitous at times, showing no discernible sign of Sam Allardyce's usual bolt-tightening influence. Leeds can still survive but they must now beat Tottenham Hotspur in their final match to do so, and hope other results go their way.

As they have been all season, Leeds were simply unable to control a match in the balance: instead, it was a game of wild swings, which suited West Ham, who were both more clinical and secure in transition, and not Leeds, whose defenders were often chasing back in a state of frantic desperation. Leeds have now conceded 74 goals this season, the most in the Premier League, at a rate of exactly two a game. Their last top-flight clean sheet came against Southampton in February, 14 games ago; the wait for the next one may be long.

For West Ham, the afterglow of their passage to the Europa Conference League final persists. Declan Rice scored on what could be his final appearance as a home player at the London Stadium, should he leave in the summer, and Lucas Paquetá, who has improved steadily throughout the season, was superb. They may yet have another say in the relegation picture on the final day, when they face Leicester City.

Leeds made the better start, almost catching out their opponents within four minutes. Patrick Bamford had space to run into on the left, and his cross was perfect, struck with enough weight to miss the covering Rice and reach Rodrigo at the back post, but the Spaniard's touch was dreadful and Lukasz Fabianski gathered the ball.

Leeds targeted the space behind West Ham's full backs, and they were soon in behind again, Rodrigo finding Jack Harrison, whose excellent first-time cross was cleared. Before long, their pressure was rewarded, this time from a set piece. Weston McKennie hurled a swirling long throw into the box and Rodrigo met it flush with a rasping volley which whistled past Fabianski.


Rice in what could be his final home game for West Ham

Leeds never seemed to have the control or structure which would allow them to hold their lead. West Ham could have equalised immediately through a long throw of their own, but Danny Ings couldn't connect with Angelo Ogbonna's flick-on. Then, from a chaotic corner, the ball was nodded back to Tomas Soucek, whose swivelling shot lodged between the knees of Joel Robles.

Leeds were duly pegged back. It was West Ham's best move by far: Pablo Fornals played a lovely scooped pass to Jarrod Bowen, who lobbed the ball to the back post, where Rice met it with an into-the-ground finish which caressed the roof of the net as it spun into the goal.

Bamford had been lively but an injury forced Allardyce to replace him with Wilfried Gnonto. West Ham had gained the ascendancy and had a big chance when they left Leeds trailing on the counter: the ball was slipped to Fornals, who fired wide under pressure from Rasmus Kristensen.

Leeds' endeavour could not be faulted but their imprecision was painful. When Rodrigo robbed Kurt Zouma, his pull-back was scuffed sideways by Gnonto, then fell to Harrison, who dragged his shot horribly.

West Ham were crisper in their actions. They created the first moment of danger after the break, Paquetá running onto a sideways pass 25 yards out and curling a lovely shot which Robles saved. Allardyce was beginning to fulminate on the touchline: shirt rumpled, tie askew, jaws masticating furiously. He made a double change, bringing on Crysencio Summerville and Brenden Aaronson for Harrison and Adam Forshaw. Luke Ayling made an excellent block on Ings as West Ham continued to exert pressure.

In the end, that pressure told. Ings waltzed infield and prodded a through ball to Bowen, whose poked shot brushed Robles' glove, but crept in off the far post. A review confirmed that Bowen was narrowly onside.

At times, Leeds were staggeringly wide open. A simple pass from a throw-in produced a sudden four-on-two, and only Rice's unselfish decision to square the ball to Fornals, when he could have shot himself, allowed Ayling to make a desperate block.

Still, Leeds had a chance to turn the day around. With five minutes remaining, Marc Roca's lovely pass over the top ushered Summerville through on goal. He took too long, allowing Emerson to block the shot, and when the rebound came to Aaronson his mishit pinwheeled comically skyward. Allardyce flung his gum away in disgust.

Leeds were surviving on prayers and slide-tackles. Another two-on-two cut them open and Ings looked certain to score, but a desperate lunge caused him to miscontrol. Eventually, they were undone again. It came from a throw-in high on the right, Leeds crowding too many players tight to the touchline. Paquetá escaped and strode into the box, wriggled past Kristensen with a lovely piece of skill and balance and cut the ball back to Manuel Lanzini, to leave Leeds' Premier League lifeline hanging by a thread.


A dejected Ayling knows that Leeds must beat Spurs to have any hope of staying up

**BOTTOM FOUR**

| | P | W | D | L | GD | Pts |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Everton | 37 | 7 | 12 | 18 | -24 | 33 |
| Leeds | 37 | 7 | 10 | 20 | -27 | 31 |
| Leicester | 36 | 8 | 6 | 22 | -18 | 30 |
| Southmptn (R) | 37 | 6 | 6 | 25 | -37 | 24 |

**RELEGATION BATTLE**
**Remaining fixtures**
**Everton**
**Sunday, May 28** Bournemouth (h)
**Leeds United**
**May 28** Tottenham Hotspur (h)
**Leicester City**
**Today** Newcastle United (a)
**May 28** West Ham United (h)

## Allardyce: We've little chance without Bamford and Rodrigo

**GARY JACOB**

Sam Allardyce has given Leeds United little chance of staying up if his injured forwards Patrick Bamford and Rodrigo are ruled out of their final game of the season.

Leeds will have to beat Tottenham Hotspur on Sunday and hope for favourable other results after their 3-1 defeat by West Ham United, in which Bamford went off with a hamstring problem after 34 minutes and Rodrigo played with a heel injury. If the pair are ruled out Allardyce suggested he has little confidence in the attacking players who made no impact after coming on against West Ham.

"If they are both missing, it is a big ask," Allardyce said. "Fact. I can't hide that. Who plays up front if they are missing? I might need to play a completely different system to create an opportunity to win. The impact from the substitutes was not there as I expected. That makes me look at the squad and can they make a difference? Unfortunately, none of the substitutes made a difference when we needed them."

Wilfried Gnonto replaced Bamford and Crysencio Summerville, also a forward, and Brenden Aaronson, an attacking midfielder, came on. Leeds led through Rodrigo but only three of their 12 shots were on target. "The quality at both ends is where we lack," Allardyce said. "Two critical areas are particularly disappointing. We didn't show enough quality."

Leeds have lost 25 points from leading positions this season, more than any other Premier League side. Just like last year, their fate is out of their hands. They survived by beating Brentford and Burnley losing on the final day last season. Allardyce, relegated for the first time with West Bromwich Albion in 2021, said he has not made the impact he hoped for after taking charge three weeks ago.

"The only challenge is to beat Tottenham," he said. "I can only try my best and give the players the right instructions to show them how to win. Unfortunately, that has not worked yet."

David Moyes brushed off fears that the West Ham players who went into the stands to protect their families from AZ Alkmaar fans on Thursday could be charged by Uefa. "I can't see any problem, to be honest," he said.

# Fixing set piece may be key to survival for Dyche

**PAUL JOYCE**

| | |
| --- | --- |
| **Wolves** | **1** |
| Hwang Hee-chan 34 | |
| **Everton** | **1** |
| Mina 90+9 | |

**RATINGS**
**Wolves** (4-2-3-1): D Bentley 6 — N Semedo 6, N Collins 6, C Dawson 7, Toti 6 — J Gomes 6, R Neves 7 (B Traoré 88min) — A Traoré 7 (M Cunha 88), P Sarabia 6 (M Nunes 70, 6), D Podence 6 (D Costa 70, 6) — Hwang Hee-chan 7 (M Lemina 74). **Booked** A Traoré, Dawson, Semedo, Neves, Nunes.

**Everton** (4-5-1): J Pickford 6 — N Patterson 6 (M Keane 29, 6), Y Mina 7, J Tarkowski 6, D McNeil 7 — J Garner 7, A Onana 5 (N Maupay 81), I Gueye 5 (M Holgate 82), A Doucouré 5, A Iwobi 6 — D Calvert-Lewin 6 (D Gray 45, 6).

**Booked** Garner.
**Referee** D Coote. **Attendance** 31,684.

Another evening agonising over matters completely out of his control awaits for Sean Dyche, though if results continue to fall Everton's way their task will be clear.

Should Leicester City fail to beat Newcastle United tonight, Everton know victory over Bournemouth at Goodison Park will assure them of a 70th consecutive top-flight season.

It sounds simple enough, though little ever seems straightforward for a club with a masochistic streak that is ravaged by injuries.

Whereas in 1994 and 1998 Everton's fate was out of their hands and they started the final day in the bottom three before scrambling to safety, now only a win for Leicester on Tyneside will drag them into the drop-zone after Leeds United's defeat by West Ham yesterday. Confidence they can avoid a first demotion since 1951 has also been bolstered by Yerry Mina's equaliser in the ninth minute of added time on Saturday that cancelled out Hwang Hee-chan's first-half opener for Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"It gives us a strong feel of the nature of the group, the energy in the group, the belief in the group," Dyche, the manager, said. "And, of course, it sends another message: we're alive, we're ready, we are taking it on."

Everton have not won at home since March 11, however, and have lost twice to Bournemouth already, while the repercussions of all the bad decisions the club have made over recent seasons complicate matters.



Mina celebrates the equaliser that keeps survival hopes alive for Everton

The inexplicable failure to strengthen in attack across two transfer windows leaves them horribly exposed now that Dominic Calvert-Lewin is set to miss their final fixture with a hamstring injury.

A key part of recruitment is also having durable players who are readily available, but the right back Nathan Patterson, who has made 22 appearances in 18 months, also suffered a hamstring problem at Molineux. His absence would compound the loss of Seamus Coleman, whose season has already ended because of a knee injury, while, at left back, Vitalii Mykolenko faces a

# game ... and destiny

PAUL TERRY/SPORTIMAGE; JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

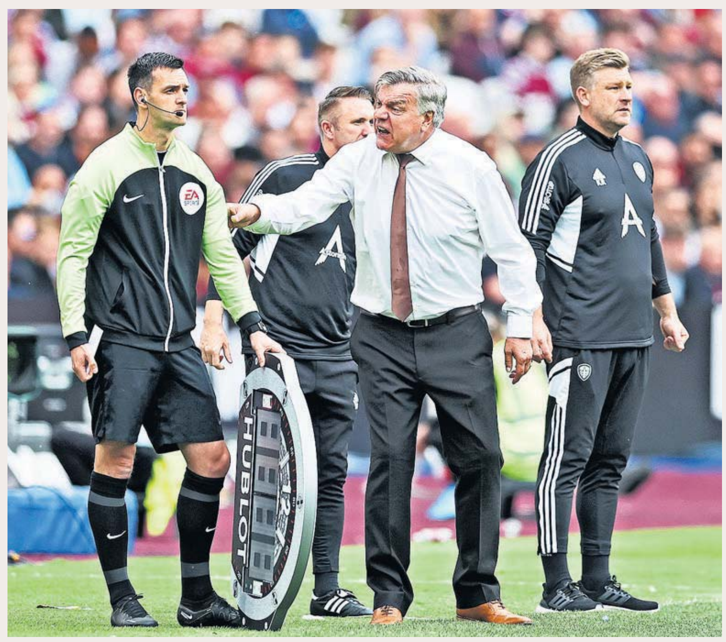



## 1-0 UP AND ALLARDYCE IS QUIDS IN...



When his side were 1-0 up, Sam Allardyce found a £5 note on the touchline at the London Stadium and jokingly tried to give it to fourth official Andy Madley

## BUT THE JOKES DIDN'T LAST LONG



Allardyce's jovial demeanour did not last long as he watched his Leeds United side throw away a lead. He was seen arguing with Madley in the second half

**HOPE FOR EVERTON?**

Goals conceded from set-pieces, PL 22-23

| Team | Goals |
|---|---|
| Bournemouth | 27 |
| N'ham Forest | 22 |
| Aston Villa | 19 |
| Fulham | 19 |
| Brighton | 18 |
| Leicester | 18 |
| Leeds | 16 |
| Southampton | 16 |
| Brentford | 14 |
| Crystal Palace | 14 |
| Chelsea | 13 |
| Everton | 13 |
| Arsenal | 11 |
| Man United | 11 |
| Newcastle | 11 |
| Tottenham | 11 |
| West Ham | 11 |
| Wolves | 11 |
| Man City | 10 |
| Liverpool | 9 |

battle to be fit. Ruben Vinagre's season is also over.

It means an already imbalanced squad is being stretched in every direction with Michael Keane, James Garner and Dwight McNeil all playing in multiple positions without quibble over the course of 90 minutes.

Then there is the question of Everton's desire to stay loyal to Frank Lampard for as long as they did. They went into the World Cup break last November on the back of two heavy defeats by Bournemouth, 4-1 in the Carabao Cup and 3-0 in the league, which came in a run that yielded one win in eight. However, Everton were unbeaten in six league games before that. Lampard's tenure as manager extended to five more league matches, during which he picked up one point, before the axe was swung.

When Dyche took over in January, Everton had 15 points from 20 games which, he said on Saturday, "wasn't a fantastic return at that stage". That said, Burnley had 14 points from 20 games under Dyche last season and 24 points from 30 games when he was sacked, but he maintains he would have kept his former club up.

The bare numbers show that Everton have improved under Dyche. He has collected 18 points from 17 games, so that is an uplift, with points per game rising from 0.75 to 1.05.

Everton have lost only one of their past seven away games, collecting eight points, which for a team who were previously flimsy on their travels highlights an upgrade. In three of those games, they have come from behind to claim a point, which underscores their resolve and resilience. How big a shift in mentality it represents is harder to define because, when the club stared ignominy in the face in the final weeks of the last campaign, Lampard managed to corral the group into claiming 14 points from eight games to secure safety with a game to spare.

Still, Dyche will hope that all now counts for something when, overall, there remains a lack of clear-cut chances from open play. The good news is that Bournemouth have conceded the most goals (27) from set pieces of any team in the top flight this season. Dyche will be aware of that. Everton have scored seven goals from set pieces, the joint-second worst tally, and the players should expect part of this week to involve drilling down on the small details when a corner or a free kick could be crucial to their salvation. All of the enhancements Dyche spoke of point the way forward but, as he has said, it is not about the process any more. "It means nothing," Dyche said. "Unless we go and take care of ourselves."

A favour from Newcastle manager Eddie Howe, the man he replaced at Burnley, will help.

# Stranger than fiction: Forest feat 'beyond comparison'

| | |
|---|---|
| **Nott'm Forest** | **1** |
| Awoniyi 19 | |
| **Arsenal** | **0** |

**RATINGS**
**Nottingham Forest** (3-4-2-1): K Navas 8 (W Hennessey 90+9min) — J Worrall 7, Felipe 7 (W Boly 79), M Niakhaté 7 — S Aurier 7, O Mangala 7, R Yates 7, R Lodi 7 — M Gibbs-White 9, Danilo 7 (C Kouyaté 73) — T Awoniyi 8 (B Johnson 79). **Booked** Niakhaté, Gibbs-White, Awoniyi.
**Arsenal** (4-3-3): A Ramsdale 6 — T Partey 6, B White 6, Gabriel 6, J Kiwior 5 (K Tierney 63) — M Odegaard 6, Jorginho 6, G Xhaka 5 (E Nketiah 63) — B Saka 6, G Jesus 5, L Trossard 5 (F Vieira 70). **Booked** Gabriel, Jesus.
**Referee** A Taylor. **Attendance** 29,514.

**CHARLOTTE DUNCKER**

The banner unfurled in the Trent End before kick-off by the expectant Nottingham Forest supporters read: "Our redshirts, you have given us your all and once more we will give you our all in return."

On a day when there was as much effort from the fans as the players to secure top-flight status for another season, the squad and the head coach hailed an inherent belief and togetherness for getting them over the line.

Even when Arsenal were superior in almost every metric, Forest emerged victorious, thanks to a first-half goal from Taiwo Awoniyi, showing a fight and determination that was lacking from Mikel Arteta's side. The Arsenal manager had praised his Forest counterpart, Steve Cooper, for the work he has done this season in somehow managing to gel 30 strangers to compete in the top flight.

With one win in their first 11 league games and Cooper struggling to work out his best side, Forest had been written off in the relegation battle but somehow, even with another run of 11 winless games, they survived.

"He and his back-room staff have done an incredible job," the midfielder Ryan Yates said. "If you take a step back [and look] at how many players he's had to manage, it's difficult at the best of times but in a first year in the Premier League… he's done an incredible job. Full credit to the club, there could have been a change but they stuck by him and so did the supporters."

Only now, with Premier League safety confirmed, has Cooper admitted the difficulties he faced.

"I just love the fact nobody has ever had to do what we've done as a coaching group," he said. "The fact we've done it and been able to make something of it — what do you compare it to? There was nobody I could pick up the phone to and say, 'How did you do this or that?'

"It became my biggest driver, to go 'OK, let's do something that's never been done before.'"

But what was it that changed to inspire their late revival? To deliver three home victories on the bounce, against Brighton & Hove Albion, Southampton and Arsenal?

"I can't really put my finger on it," Yates said. "But the belief has grown and grown, and we started to create some more chances. Since day one in pre-season the manager has continued with the same message about believing in yourselves and how much the City Ground can help us — and it is our home ground that has kept us in the league."

# Beating Brighton will be Emery's latest obsession

**Liverpool** 1
Firmino 89

**Aston Villa** 1
Ramsey 27

**RATINGS**
**Liverpool** (4-3-3): Alisson 6 — T Alexander-Arnold 5, I Konaté 5, V van Dijk 6, A Robertson 6 (K Tsimikas 72, 5) — C Jones 6 (D Jota 63, 5), Fabinho 6 (H Elliott 81), J Henderson 5 (J Milner 72, 5) — M Salah 6, C Gakpo 7, L Díaz 5 (R Firmino 72, 5). **Booked** Alexander-Arnold, Konaté, Fabinho.
**Aston Villa** (4-2-3-1): E Martínez 7 — M Cash 7, E Konsa 7, T Mings 7, L Digne 6 (Á Moreno 53 (E Buendía 65, 6)) — B Kamara 6, D Luiz 8 (L Dendoncker 86) — L Bailey 6 (A Young 53, 6), J McGinn 7, J Ramsey 7 — O Watkins 6 (J Durán 86). **Booked** Martínez, Konsa, Mings, Digne, Young.
**Referee** J Brooks. **Attendance** 53,306.

**IAN WHITTELL**

A less magnanimous man than Unai Emery would have been forgiven for enjoying Arsenal's spectacular late-season collapse that left his former employers empty-handed, just as he was leading Aston Villa to the brink of their first European campaign in 13 years.

Arsenal, after all, were where Emery's reputation, in Premier League terms at least, floundered after an unproductive 18-month spell was brought to a merciful end in November 2019.

Mikel Arteta is the latest incumbent to discover the difficulties in trying to emerge from the shadow still lingering from more than two decades of Arsène Wenger's excellence but Emery has quietly carried out a remarkable transformation at Villa Park.

After losing his first game in charge, away to Newcastle United in October, Villa were two places, and one point, above the relegation zone. Next weekend, they will host Brighton & Hove Albion with victory guaranteeing European qualification.

Emery has amassed a 56 per cent win record with his new club; the second best figure in his career after the 76.3 per cent he recorded when in charge of Paris Saint-Germain, hardly a relevant comparison given that club's dominance in France.

PHIL NOBLE/REUTERS



McGinn finds a stubborn obstacle in Jordan Henderson during the Anfield draw

"He [Emery] will have an obsession this week on how to beat Brighton," John McGinn, the midfielder, said. "There will be hours and hours of watching how we can find their weaknesses. I'm sure we will have plenty of meetings, plenty of detail but I think if you ask any player who has worked with him this year he has been an absolute pleasure.

"He's made myself better, he's made other players better. The details you're going into, you're going into the games with a clear plan."

Judging by the way Villa supporters goaded home fans with taunts about Emery's predecessor, Steven Gerrard, they do not need McGinn to convince them of their manager's bona fides.

And, for a generation or two of Villa supporters brought up on their parents', or even grandparents', tales of winning the European Cup 41 years ago, the prospect of returning to continental competition is a giddy one.

"It's been the aim since day one," McGinn said. "The owners have had a remit to get us back playing European football. If you'd said to us back in November you'd be three points away then you'd have laughed. It's such a brilliant place to be at the moment, it's so positive. We could probably sell the ground twice over next week. It's a passionate club, a kind of sleeping giant and hopefully next week we can start to wake up a wee bit."

For Emery, a draw could have been so much more, but for Roberto Firmino's last-minute equaliser after Jacob Ramsey's opener, coupled with a missed first-half penalty from Ollie Watkins.

The result all but ended Liverpool's slim hopes of qualifying for Champions League football and left Emery to answer a question over whether his club could have aspirations in that department next season.

"It's difficult because there are a top seven teams now, and we are in with these sides as well," he said. "But we have to be optimistic. This year was not our objective to get in a European position but we are going to go for that this week. We escaped from the bottom, that was really, really fantastic, and then to get top ten was fantastic and now we are going to prepare this week and be motivated."

## Van Dijk excited for intense pre-season

**IAN WHITTELL**

As the lingering scent of Champions League football all but washed away from Anfield, it was time for thoughts to turn to next season.

By most reasonable metrics during the reign of Jürgen Klopp, this has been a wasted season for Liverpool as they contemplate missing out on Europe's top competition for the first time since 2016-17.

But pre-season starts in less than seven weeks and, already, carries with it the promise of a Klopp reboot, in terms of physical, as well as tactical, development.

"I'm very excited for next season," Virgil van Dijk, the defender, said. "I think that feeling came a couple of months ago when we turned the page.

"There's still a lot to work on but the good thing in this case is that we have the whole pre-season to work on this and that's definitely the plan.

"The noises I'm hearing, it's going to be a very intense pre-season with a lot of physical work but also a lot of tactical work trying to get ready for a tough season.

"That's very exciting. Players are leaving, hopefully players come in and will be ready for the start of pre-season."

Klopp has explained how his team's late-season improvements were due to, effectively, treating the final weeks as a new campaign, following a "pre-season" that included rethinks, such as right back Trent Alexander-Arnold stepping into a hybrid midfield role.

Van Dijk insists that not even the likely failure of qualifying for the Champions League will affect Klopp's ability to recruit fresh talent.

"Pre-season will be massive," Van Dijk said. "Everybody knows we've been going through a little bit of a transition and, if I'm a player on the rise, I have options to go to the next step and Liverpool is knocking on my door, then I would be very, very interested."



Casemiro's acrobatic finish was enough for United to claim all three points

# United must do

**Bournemouth** 0

**Manchester Utd** 1
Casemiro 9

**RATINGS**
**Bournemouth** (4-3-3): Neto 7 — A Smith 6 (M Viña 66min, 6), I Zabarnyi 6, M Senesi 6, L Kelly 6 — L Cook 7, J Lerma 6, J Anthony 6 — R Christie 6 (D Outtara 66, 6 ), D Solanke 7, D Brooks 7 (K Moore 56, 7). **Booked** Cook.
**Manchester United** (4-2-3-1): D de Gea 8 — A Wan-Bissaka 5, V Lindelof 7, R Varane 6, L Shaw 6 — Casemiro 8, C Eriksen 7 (S McTominay 86) — Antony 5 (Fred 86), B Fernandes 6, J Sancho 5 (A Garnacho 72) — A Martial 5 (W Weghorst 57, 6).
**Referee** C Kavanagh.
**Attendance** 10,240.

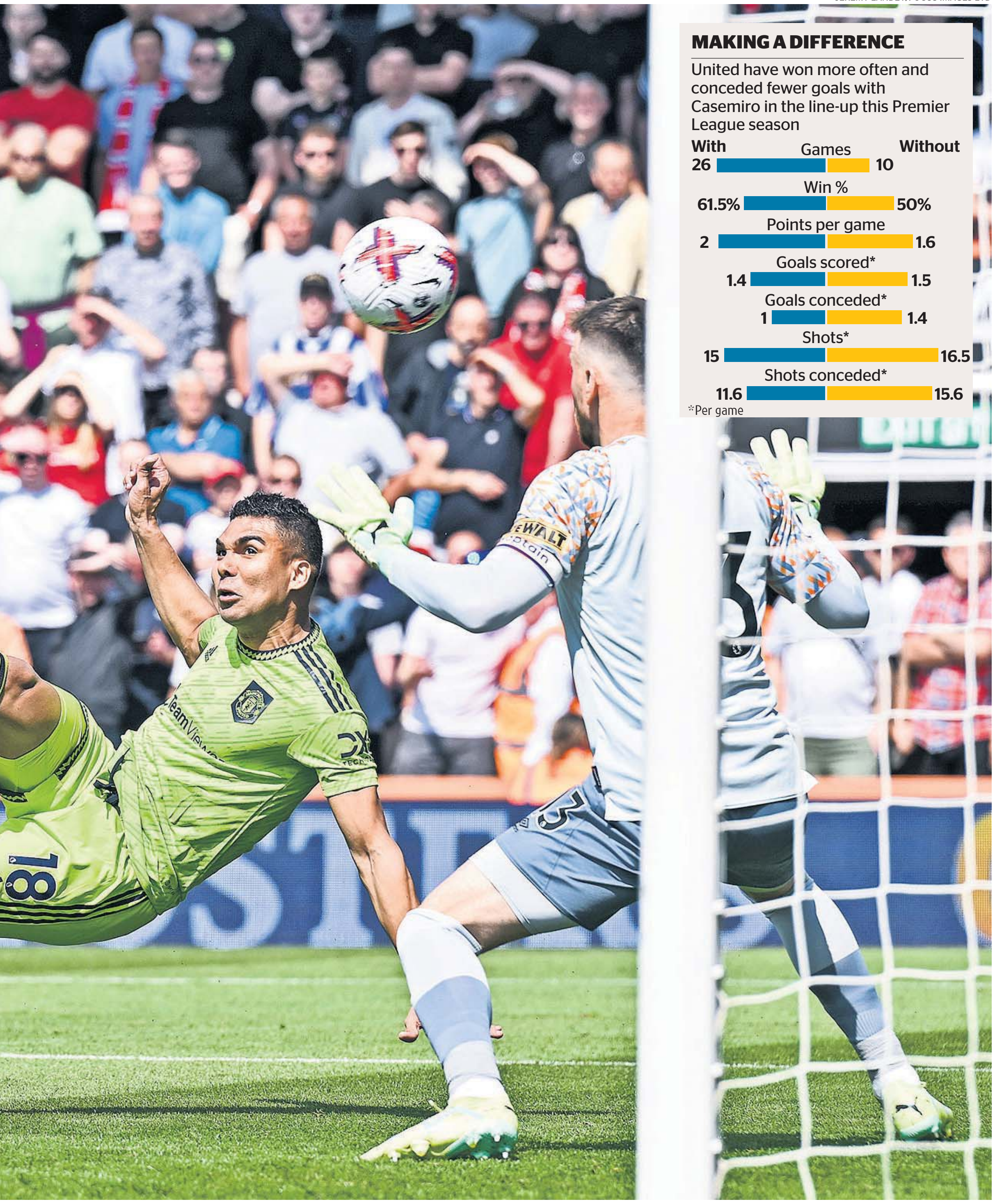
**ALYSON RUDD**

Manchester United is a tank that chugs over rough terrain, sometimes with ease but often it splutters and coughs as though it is using the wrong sort of fuel or that the welding is shoddy. But tanks being tanks, United tend to reach the desired destination and Erik ten Hag's side now require only one point from their final two games, both at Old Trafford against Chelsea and Fulham, to qualify for the Champions League.

This is a season so jam-packed with oddities and sensational stories that United's campaign has been overlooked; regarded as pedestrian. It has been a B+ sort of season, not so calamitous as to warrant indulgent schadenfreude, nor quite so handsome as to deserve gushing praise. Perhaps there is something gratifying about it being regarded as slightly underwhelming, even though you have already won the League Cup and are in the FA Cup final against Manchester City on June 3, as well as being on the cusp of a top-four finish.

It means you are important. It means expectations are high. It also means you have to somehow keep on attracting players of exceptional calibre and, against a surprisingly sprightly Bournemouth, it was clear that the star quality belonged to Casemiro, who secured the three points with a piece of electrifying improvisation.

Tellingly, Ten Hag spoke about the Brazil midfielder as you might chat about a dating app that seeks to



JEREMY LANDEY/FOCUS IMAGES LTD

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

United have won more often and conceded fewer goals with Casemiro in the line-up this Premier League season

| | With | Without |
|---|---|---|
| Games | 26 | 10 |
| Win % | 61.5% | 50% |
| Points per game | 2 | 1.6 |
| Goals scored* | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Goals conceded* | 1 | 1.4 |
| Shots* | 15 | 16.5 |
| Shots conceded* | 11.6 | 15.6 |

*Per game

# more than get job done

connect people from the same socio-economic background, so that toffs do not find themselves sharing chicken wings with fruit-pickers.

"One of the things that came out of our analysis was that we were missing a player in the midfield," he said. "It was not easy because there were not many with the profile who fit the standards of Manchester United. So, we are happy we found him."

Christian Eriksen also fits the same model in that the Denmark midfielder swapped the fairytale of Brentford for a club of far greater stature. Eriksen could hardly have chosen a more suitable club. United are a behemoth who gobble up nuance and always demand more from their players.

And yet United are far from polished and after an imperious opening 25 minutes they allowed the home team far too many chances. It was United's season in a microcosm. Good enough to get what the club need but not good enough to do it convincingly. Casemiro and Eriksen possess an innate class that can rise above the inconsistency, but everyone else intermittently wobbles.

David de Gea made several fine saves and was announced as the winner of the Premier League Golden Glove Award after keeping 16 clean sheets and conceding 41 goals. Without access to the statistics, you might have guessed that Liverpool's Alisson (who kept 14 clean sheets) or Arsenal's Aaron Ramsdale (13) would take the accolade having been lauded as integral and inspired but it is the Spain goalkeeper, with 540 appearances for United, who has trumped them both despite not being lauded at all. For all his occasional gaffes, De Gea is a stalwart of the team and proof that experience can triumph over aesthetics.

The pressure on Ten Hag to deliver Champions League football is immense and if you watched only those opening 25 minutes, of which he was extremely proud, you would conclude that United belong among the elite and possess a clear identity and empowering sense of entitlement.

It is peculiar, then, how the team all too quickly became sloppy, tired and even a little lazy. Did their travelling fans shouting out that Liverpool were losing at Anfield make the players too relaxed, believing they could not be caught in the race for the top four?

In what possible universe do United, who lead fifth-place Liverpool by three points with a game in hand but a vastly inferior goal difference, lose to Chelsea and Fulham at Old Trafford, thereby falling into the Europa League placings, assuming Liverpool win their last game against relegated Southampton?

It would mean the tank had fallen down an unseen ditch and been left like a beetle on its back, clawing at thin air and neither west London club quite has the brusque qualities of a black hole to suck the life out of Ten Hag's team.

The United manager was almost aghast at the challenge posed by Bournemouth, though. Not only have the south coast club defied all expectations, they produce the sort of slick counterattacks more suited to teams hoping to compete abroad. Above all Gary O'Neil's team possessed the confidence that comes with freedom from any burden and, just maybe, Chelsea and Fulham will believe they have so little to lose they can rattle United by being carefree.

# After reminiscing for 20 years, Newcastle ready for real thing

**MARTIN HARDY**

"When you look back you go, 'Who do you want your best game to be against?' And you're going to pick a Barcelona or a Real Madrid. Luckily for me it was Barcelona."

Keith Gillespie was addressing a packed pub in North Tyneside in 2015, 18 years after Newcastle United had beaten Barcelona at St James' Park in the Champions League on a night when the winger seemed propelled by the ferocious noise that swept down from the stands at the old stadium.

Newcastle fans were still hanging on the words of Gillespie, all those years later, to bring the memory of 1997 back to life, to rewind their lives to the moment when Gillespie and Faustino Asprilla tore a Barcelona side that included Luís Figo, Rivaldo, and Luis Enrique to pieces.

Asprilla scored a hat-trick in a 3-2 group-stage win, with Gillespie setting up two of the goals as he ran Sergi Barjuán, the Spain full back, ragged.

"You were buzzing as soon as the draw was made and the first game was at home," the 48-year-old former Northern Ireland player said. "The mighty Barcelona at Newcastle. It made it even more special. It was my first big Champions League night. Walking out you hear the Champions League music. It was the best I ever played, by a long way. The atmosphere? Aaah, the noise. It was unbelievable. There was just noise."

**41**
**Away goals conceded by Leicester City this season, their most in a 38-game campaign since 1914-15 (47)**

Newcastle are a solitary point away from a return to a competition they have not played in since losing a penalty shoot-out to Partizan Belgrade in a third-round Champions League qualifier at St James' Park in 2003.

The club have played only 24 times in Europe's most prestigious competition, mainly across two seasons, in 1997-98, under Kenny Dalglish, and in 2002-03, under Sir Bobby Robson.

Newcastle exited at the group stage in 1997, despite the glory of beating Barcelona, then managed by Louis van Gaal, at St James' Park, and under Robson there was the drama of qualifying for the second group stage, despite losing their first three games, thanks to wins against Juventus and Dynamo Kyiv, at home and then a dramatic, last-minute victory over Feyenoord in Rotterdam.

Having reached the second group stage, which was four pools of four teams, they missed out on qualifying for the last eight but did produce a thrilling 2-2 away to Inter Milan, with Alan Shearer scoring twice, cheered on by about 12,000 travelling fans.

At 9.30pm on Thursday, 20 years and two months on from that Inter game, one chant filled the air at St James' Park. The home side were leading 4-1 against Brighton & Hove Albion and the fans were singing once more about going to Italy.

"We've tried not to talk [about the Champions League] in open meetings but it means everything to be where we are," Eddie Howe, the Newcastle head coach, said.

"Everyone that has watched us this season will say the players have delivered. We have never got too high or too low. That is the biggest challenge for us now on our way to hopefully a memorable season."

Howe was asked what it means to be 90 minutes from the Champions League, with a win at home tonight against Leicester City good enough to secure their return to the competition.

"I don't know, really," he replied. "It's a difficult one. It means everything to be where we are and it means everything to be playing as we are and it means everything to be playing in front of that atmosphere. It only feels good if we execute everything we are required to do."

He was asked if he understood what it would mean to the club's supporters.

"You see people so happy and celebrating and to feel that togetherness and to feel us united with our supporters means everything," he said.

"I'm not downplaying the emotion of the supporters. I'm just downplaying my part and the team's part because we have more work to do."

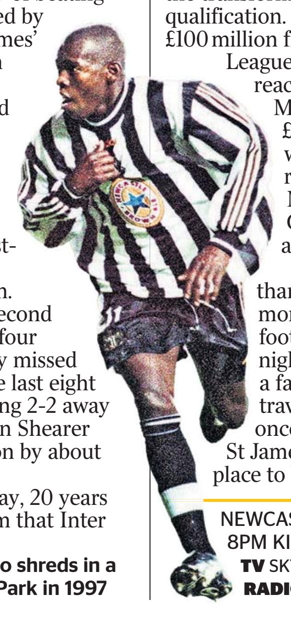
There have been 134 games in European football, across all competitions, for Newcastle, from winning the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1969 to becoming Uefa Cup regulars under the ownership of Freddy Shepherd and Sir John Hall.

That ended under Mike Ashley, bar a single campaign in the Europa League in 2012-13, when Alan Pardew was manager. Newcastle reached the quarter-finals of the competition and lost over two legs to Benfica.

Much will rightly be made about the transformative effect of qualification. Liverpool made £100 million from the Champions League in 2022, when they reached the final and Manchester United made £66 million that season, when they exited at the round-of-16 stage.

Newcastle, taken over in October 2021, are way ahead of schedule.

But it is about more than that, more than money, it is the potential of footballing glory, thrilling nights under the lights, and a fanbase dreaming of travelling around Europe once more that should make St James' Park a wondrous place to be this evening.



**Asprilla tore Barcelona to shreds in a 3-2 victory at St James' Park in 1997**

NEWCASTLE V LEICESTER CITY
8PM KICK-OFF, ST JAMES' PARK
**TV** SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT
**RADIO** talkSPORT

# Kane: Spurs need a lot of change

**Tottenham** 1
Kane 8

**Brentford** 3
Mbuemo 50, 62, Wissa 88

**RATINGS**
**Tottenham Hotspur** (4-2-3-1): F Forster 6 — E Royal 6 (P Porro 75min), D Sánchez 5, C Lenglet 6, B Davies 5 (I Perisic 85) — O Skipp 5, Y Bissouma 6 — A Danjuma 6 (L Moura 66, 6), D Kulusevski 7 (Richarlison 75), Son Heung-min 7 — H Kane 8. **Booked** Bissouma.
**Brentford** (4-3-3): D Raya 8 — A Hickey 7 (M Roerslev 89), E Pinnock 7, B Mee 7, R Henry 7 — F Onyeka 6 (M Damsgaard 45, 7), V Janelt 7, M Jensen 7 (S Baptiste 72) — K Schade 8 (M Jorgensen 78), Y Wissa 8 (J Dasilva 89), B Mbeumo 8. **Booked** Henry.
**Referee** J Gillett. **Attendance** 61,514.

**TOM ALLNUTT**

A deflated Harry Kane said "a lot needs to change" if Tottenham Hotspur want to be successful and this was a game that proved why an overhaul is required.

Daniel Levy, the club's chairman, was watching on as a promising first half for his team gave way to a miserable second, with Brentford scoring three times to claim an emphatic victory. Levy was listening as the home fans called for him to resign on another mutinous afternoon in north London and, as the boos rang out at the full-time whistle, there were even jeers accompanying the highlights video of the season.

Brentford have beaten Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool, Chelsea and now Tottenham this term, after having defeated Arsenal last season in their first Premier League game after promotion. Thomas Frank's side could overtake Spurs on the final day next weekend, with only one point standing between them in eighth and ninth place respectively.

If Brentford are a team on the up, Tottenham have been sinking for weeks. When Antonio Conte lambasted the players for their weak mentality in February, they were fourth and a point off third, albeit having played more games than those around them.

Since Conte's departure, Spurs have won two out of nine, with the Champions League, Europa League and, perhaps now, the Europa Conference League slipping out of reach. Tottenham, who finish away at Leeds United, are eighth, a point behind Aston Villa, who play at home to Brighton & Hove Albion.

"Some people think we can fight," Conte said three months ago. "Fight for what, with this spirit, this attitude, this commitment? For seventh, eighth, tenth place?"

It was hardly what Kane envisaged when he said he wanted to be challenging for trophies and while the 29-year-old was presented with all three of Tottenham's player of the year awards after full-time, those are not the prizes he craves either.

For the despondent fans that stayed, the worry was this was Kane's final home game for Spurs, that his stunning strike after seven minutes for his 278th goal for the club might also be his last.

"I'm just focused on this season and trying to help the team as much as possible, that's all I can do," Kane said, when asked about his future. "There's a big summer ahead and a lot that needs to change here to start being successful again. Ultimately my focus now is to enjoy this last week as much as possible and to try to finish with a win on Sunday."

Kane's deal expires next year, when he could leave for nothing, and he will want answers from Levy about the direction of the club, the incoming head coach and the new director of football. Kane gave little away as he walked around the pitch with his family after the match but the central question is clear: are Tottenham getting closer to winning something? Or edging further and further away?

"I think there's a conversation to be had, in terms of some of the values of the club," Kane said. "We've had many conversations before like that, how we can improve, and that will be the case again." Brentford, however, showed they may yet cope without Ivan Toney, even if not every defence will be as obliging as Spurs'. In their first game since he received an eight-month ban for breaking betting rules, Brentford unleashed Bryan Mbeumo, who scored twice, and Yoane Wissa, who added a third. Kevin Schade, who is on loan from Bayer Leverkusen, looks an excellent acquisition too.

"No doubt someone has to step up," Frank said. "It can be Bryan, or Wissa, or Kevin, but Bryan has the experience and the level to take a step forward."

Brentford play at home to Manchester City on the final day and Europa Conference League qualification is still possible, if unlikely. They need to beat City and hope both Tottenham and Villa fail to win against Leeds and Brighton respectively.

CRAIG MERCER/MB MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES




Many fans will be worried that this was the final home game for Kane, who collected all three player of the year awards

## Feyenoord's Slot hints he could succeed Conte

**GARY JACOB**

Arne Slot has hinted that he could leave Feyenoord following interest from Tottenham Hotspur.

The Dutch club have said they expect him to stay as head coach and there has been no approach from Spurs, who have Slot as a leading candidate to succeed Antonio Conte as permanent head coach.

Slot led Feyenoord to the Eredivisie title this season and the club have been trying to persuade him to extend his contract, which expires in two years. The 44-year-old has said he wants to resolve his future quickly, having rejected an offer from Leeds United in February.

"Of course there are clubs that you listen to if they are interested. They first have to pass Feyenoord and we have determined that everyone must be satisfied when I leave," Slot said yesterday. "I am now at Feyenoord and there are plenty of reasons to stay here. As a footballer or trainer you can never say with 100 per cent certainty that you will stay. There are always clubs you want to listen to, I'm having a great time here."

Dennis te Kloese, the Feyenoord general manager, has said he expects Slot to stay and had a different opinion when it came to the subject of his head coach talking to other clubs. He also separately claimed that he rejected an offer from Spurs, who are looking for a new sporting director after Fabio Paratici resigned last month.

"Tottenham have not approached us for Arne, I can be very open and clear about that," Te Kloese said.

"I also read the news and, of course, I was not born yesterday. If there is interest, that club should report to us and then we will think about it. He is not allowed to talk to another club now, because he is under contract with us for another two years."

# To aim higher, Palace must build future around Eze and Olise

**Fulham** 2
Mitrovic 45+5 (pen), 61

**Crystal Palace** 2
Édouard 34, Ward 83

**RATINGS**
**Fulham** (4-2-3-1): B Leno 6 — K Tete 6, Tosin 6, I Diop 6, A Robinson 5 — H Reed 7, J Palhinha 7 — Willian 7 (B Decordova-Reid 80min), T Cairney 6 (M Solomon 80), H Wilson 6 — A Mitrovic 8. **Booked** Palhinha, Robinson, Tosin.
**Crystal Palace** (4-2-3-1): S Johnstone 6 — J Ward 7, J Andersen 6, M Guéhi 7, T Mitchell 5 — C Doucouré 6, W Hughes 6 — M Olise 7, E Eze 8, J Ayew 6 — O Édouard 7 (J-P Mateta 80)
**Referee** J Smith. **Attendance** 24,356.

**HAMZAH KHALIQUE-LOONAT**

With both sides having comfortably achieved their survival missions for the season, the question now is: what next for Fulham and Crystal Palace?

For Fulham the answer is rather straightforward: refresh and reinforce the squad, which will continue to be led by Marco Silva. In an excellent season, characterised by a number of outstanding performances from Aleksandar Mitrovic, Willian, João Palhinha and Bernd Leno, the Fulham owner, Shahid Khan, should realise the opportunity in front of him and look to build on that core.

As they showed in a dominant first 20 minutes at Craven Cottage on Saturday, refining the team's decision-making in the final third and making better use of the ball in open play is what will determine the team's success next season.

For Palace, though, the answer requires some deeper thought — there is the issue of succession, and all that comes with it.

Roy Hodgson, brought in initially as an emergency measure to arrest a downturn in results under Patrick Vieira, has remained coy on staying in charge at Palace next season.

Hodgson, who will turn 76 in August, is expected to speak with Steve Parish, the club's chairman, at the end of the campaign. But the question for Palace isn't just about the man in the dugout, but also about the club's culture, identity and direction.

Hodgson is about as good a match for the club as any manager. He understands Palace, its supporters and the players regard him highly. However, it is unlikely that Hodgson would be a long-term solution for those wider questions, given he would be likely to stay for only one more season.

Given Vieira was supposedly recruited to give the club a project for the future, it appears Palace's direction has stalled somewhat.

They reached the FA Cup final in 2016, earned their highest Premier League points total (49) in 2018-19, and next season will mark ten consecutive years in the top flight — yet they still seem to be stuck in the bottom half of the table, rather than pushing on.

The stop-start progress contrasts sharply with other clubs such as Brentford or Brighton & Hove Albion, who have committed firmly to their own projects and are aiming for European football, after consolidating their position in the league.

One idea floated has been for Paddy McCarthy — the former Palace defender and now assistant coach — to learn the ropes under Hodgson for a year before taking over. Committing to McCarthy and a project for the next few years may be the smart choice. But like Brentford and Brighton, there needs to be a squad and identity to match — a thread that links the manager to the objectives of the board and the supporters too.

On the pitch, Wilfried Zaha, out of contract in the summer, may have played his final match for the club. But in Eberechi Eze, 24, and Michael Olise, 21, Palace have two players who could help fill that void, and whose skills and flair could help develop a new identity and style.

The standout moments on Saturday belonged to the two creative players. In his assist for Odsonne Édouard's opener, Eze masterfully skipped past Tom Cairney before slipping a perfect pass into the striker's path, while Olise combined with Eze late on — a short, sharp and instinctive passage of play resulting in Olise's shot whistling just wide of a post.

Marc Guéhi, 22, has developed into an outstanding young centre back, who is willing to stride forward with the ball, take on opponents and control the game. In these three players, Palace have young stars who can energise the fan base, excite young supporters and work towards a season where the final day is not just a celebration of safety, but the chance at fighting for something bigger.

Even if Hodgson is to stay next season, the plan for his succession must start now.




Mitrovic celebrates after converting a penalty

# Joy and pain as Chelsea close on title

| | |
|---|---|
| **Chelsea** | **2** |
| Reiten 22, Eriksson 41 | |
| **Arsenal** | **0** |

**WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE**
**MOLLY HUDSON**

Chelsea had beaten Arsenal 2-0 and moved within touching distance of their fourth successive Women's Super League title, with only bottom-of-the-table Reading to play, and yet Emma Hayes's celebrations were muted. "I probably have mixed feelings, I'm really happy we won but I'm really sad," the Chelsea manager said. "We are losing two amazing people." On Thursday, Magda Eriksson, the Chelsea captain, announced she was leaving after six trophy-laden years.

The departure of her team-mate and partner Pernille Harder was confirmed shortly after. It is often said that it is not winning which is the most difficult art in football — it is continuing to win, for the need to constantly rejuvenate a squad causes problems of its own.

Eriksson, 29, and Harder, 30, are world-class players, and are understood to be heading to Bayern Munich, and Chelsea recognised the need to reduce the age of their squad. But it does not make the departures any less painful.



**Harder and Eriksson will be leaving Chelsea, possibly for Bayern Munich**

Eriksson led the team out at Kingsmeadow, on her final home appearance, and scored Chelsea's second goal. As she blew a kiss to the Chelsea fans, wheeling away in celebration, this felt like a fitting end for a legend of the club.

Arsenal had title hopes of their own before a barrage of injuries and had the upper hand on Chelsea since Jonas Eidevall took charge in June 2021. As well as beating Chelsea in the Continental Cup final this year, Eidevall had never lost to Hayes in a league match.

Manchester City's 2-1 defeat by Manchester United meant Arsenal have almost secured Champions League football for next season — bar a three-point, 11-goal swing on the final day.

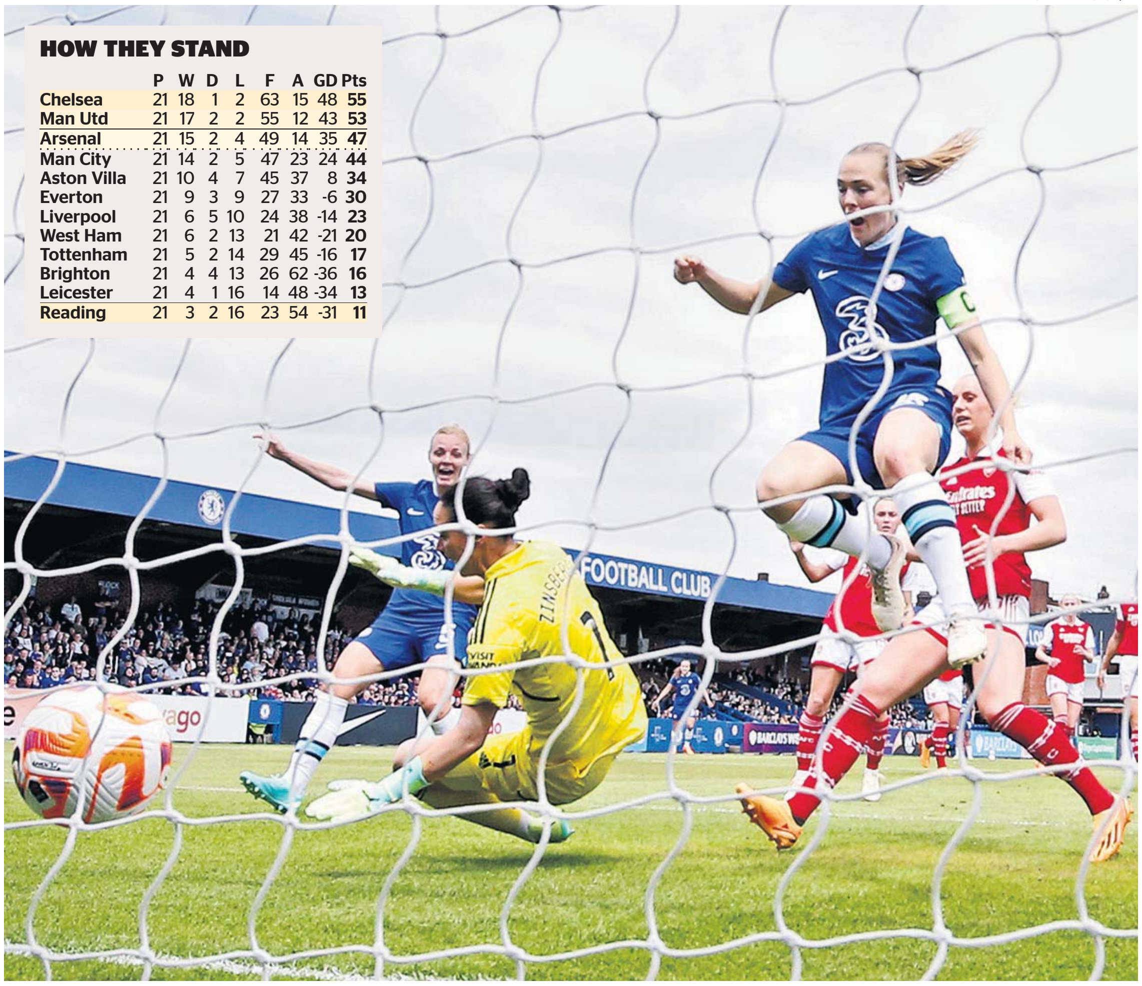
Arsenal had a chance to score the opener through Stina Blackstenius but the striker took too many touches and Ann-Katrin Berger, was able to block her effort.

Chelsea punished them, as they so often do. Ève Périsset produced a searching ball forward, despite slipping, and Guro Reiten slid in to meet it on the half volley, finding the bottom corner.

Reiten helped to create Chelsea's second, her free kick headed on by Sam Kerr for Eriksson to scramble home.

Chelsea fans sang "Champions of England, three times in a row." Those lyrics will likely need updating, despite United's stoppage-time heroics taking the title race to the final day.

STEVEN PASTON/PA



**HOW THEY STAND**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 21 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 63 | 15 | 48 | **55** |
| Man Utd | 21 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 55 | 12 | 43 | **53** |
| Arsenal | 21 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 49 | 14 | 35 | **47** |
| Man City | 21 | 14 | 2 | 5 | 47 | 23 | 24 | **44** |
| Aston Villa | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 45 | 37 | 8 | **34** |
| Everton | 21 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 33 | -6 | **30** |
| Liverpool | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 24 | 38 | -14 | **23** |
| West Ham | 21 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 21 | 42 | -21 | **20** |
| Tottenham | 21 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 29 | 45 | -16 | **17** |
| Brighton | 21 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 26 | 62 | -36 | **16** |
| Leicester | 21 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 48 | -34 | **13** |
| Reading | 21 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 23 | 54 | -31 | **11** |

**Eriksson, right, scores Chelsea's second goal to secure victory over Arsenal and keep her side in control of the title race**

## García's late goal keeps faint hopes alive

| | |
|---|---|
| **Man Utd** | **2** |
| Ladd 2, García 90'+1 | |
| **Man City** | **1** |
| Angeldahl 68 | |

**RICHARD TANNER**

Lucia García's dramatic stoppage-time winner settled the Manchester derby in United's favour and ensured that the WSL title race will go down to the final day of the season.

Substitute García struck from close range just as City — who played for half the game with 10 players following keeper Ellie Roebuck's red card — thought they had done enough to earn the draw that would have handed Chelsea the title with a game to spare.

United had failed to build on Hayley Ladd's superb early strike or City's numerical disadvantage until García popped up with the winner in front of a record sell-out crowd of 7,864 at the Leigh Sports Village.

Chelsea will go into the final day with a two-point lead and as firm favourites to beat bottom club Reading while United will need to win against Liverpool and hope that Emma Hayes and her team suffer an unlikely defeat.

Ladd gave United a dream start by firing into the top corner from the edge of the area after two minutes.

They got a further boost following the dismissal of Roebuck, who left referee Rebecca Welch with no option after charging out of her penalty in a bid to intercept Ella Toone's through pass only to arrive too late and bring down Nikita Parris as she took the ball round her.

But City showed great resilience after the break, despite their numerical disadvantage, and equalised after 68 minutes thanks to Filippa Angeldahl's close-range effort.

United were left to rue a number of missed chances before García grabbed the winner just as they were bracing themselves for a second huge disappointment in a week after their FA Cup final defeat to Chelsea.


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# One club, ten years, 19 managers: so why Watford for Ismaël?



New head coach at Vicarage Road talks to **Henry Winter** about trying to get Dele Alli smiling again at Besiktas, Putin's war and why he doesn't mind having the owner around the training ground

Preparations for next season are well under way. Valérien Ismaël, Watford's new head coach, is already hard at work assessing the squad he inherited, considering new signings with the owner Gino Pozzo and technical director Ben Manga, and establishing how he can introduce his high-intensity style into a more possession-based group of players. Football is the sport that never rests.

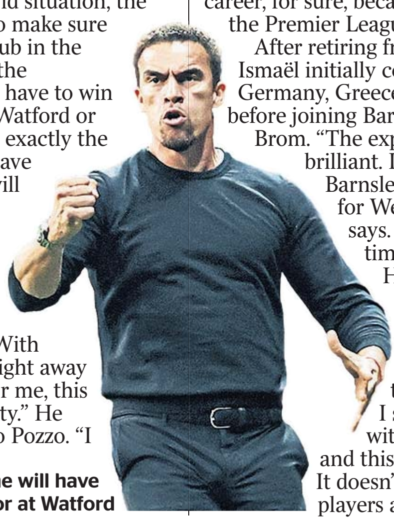
Ismaël draws on his experiences with Barnsley, whom he guided to the Sky Bet Championship play-offs in 2021 with energy and pressing, and at West Bromwich Albion and Besiktas, where he fared less well. "With my past three clubs, it was always an adaptation on what my players are able to do," Ismaël, 47, says. "Barnsley was less possession, Besiktas was over 55 per cent possession. The [Watford] squad showed last season they're a possession-based team.

"We will do some business in the transfer market and add the players we need to play with that intensity. It will be a balance. It won't be completely what we saw at Barnsley. I talk to players. Some want the ball, some want to run, some want to press. It's about how to find the right balance and giving the player a good feeling. I want to see intensity, in possession as well, a mix."

Why Watford? I ask Ismaël. They turn over managers quickly, 19 in a decade. Ismaël is aware of the numbers but keen to place it in context. "It's not only Watford," he replies. "Especially this season you've seen [this] not only in English football but all over Europe. It was a very difficult year for all the managers — some clubs took four managers, even Chelsea, a big club, [had] so many managers. In Germany and France exactly the same.

"This year was a difficult year for everyone, the pressure was so high on the manager. My opinion is that it's due to the post-Covid situation, the financial pressure to make sure you maintain the club in the Premier League or the Championship. You have to win games. If you're at Watford or somewhere else, it's exactly the same. If you don't have the results then it will be difficult.

"After Besiktas, I had a few interviews but the feeling wasn't there. So we turned down some offers. With Watford, it was straight away the good feeling. For me, this is a great opportunity." He immediately took to Pozzo. "I spoke with a lot of owners and that was the first time when the feeling was we were on the same page when we talk about football," he says. "It was his passion and his knowledge about the football, his club, his team. He's at the training ground, I see him, and that's something different, but something very good because of the daily communication with him.



Ismaël knows that he will have little margin for error at Watford

**Nine clubs, five countries: Ismaël's head coaching jobs**

**2011-2013** Hannover 96 II
**2013-2014** Wolfsburg II
**2014** Nürnberg
**2015-2016** Wolfsburg II
**2016-2017** Wolfsburg
**2018** Apollon Smyrnis
**2019-2020** LASK
**2020-2021** Barnsley
**2021-2022** West Bromwich Albion
**2022** Besiktas
**2023-** Watford

"Watford want success. I want success. We expect to compete, to be involved in the promotion race. We can build momentum. We want to have hungry players to compete in the Championship. It will be very difficult. If you stop the Premier League right now, you see which teams will be in the Championship next season: Southampton for sure, and two more big, big clubs [from Everton, Leicester City and Leeds United]. It will be a massive fight."

Ismaël's first experience of English football came in 1998 when he became Crystal Palace's then record-signing for £2.75 million from Strasbourg. Injury blighted the centre back's time with Palace; he managed only 13 games in ten months and moved on to Lens. "It was a short time at Palace but sometimes it's not how long you stay in a club, it's how intense you are in the club," he says. "Palace are a special club in my career, for sure, because I played in the Premier League."

After retiring from playing, Ismaël initially coached in Germany, Greece and Austria before joining Barnsley, then West Brom. "The experiences were brilliant. I always look for Barnsley's results, and for West Brom's," he says. He had a tough time at The Hawthorns but still remembers it fondly. "I had a strong relationship with the players there. I stayed in touch with some players and this is a great feeling. It doesn't mean that all 25 players always supported me but with the big, big majority we worked well together."

He left in February last year and joined Besiktas a month later. "One year in a club like Besiktas is like ten years in another club," he says. "It was the right thing to do, to know another country, another culture."

He enjoyed working with Dele Alli, for all the player's travails. "I think we worked well with him, we try to give him the love he needed, give him the confidence he needed to get in the rhythm," he says. "It's important for him to try to find his way on the pitch again, to find the joy again, to laugh in training. He has all the ability to find his way back on his level."

After leaving Besiktas in October, he spent time with his wife and two daughters in Munich. "We love the mountains, we love skiing, it's the reason we live near the mountains," Ismaël continues. "The girls [five and seven] are very good skiers. The older one won her first race in December. It is the only time when I can really switch off — it's the best time because you breathe the pure air, focus on the kids, focus on your safety [wellbeing], but I feel the difference as soon as I come back home; my brain is focused on football [and I] watch every game, UK, Europe, everywhere."

His family will not follow him to England. "Not at the minute, because the daughters are at school but now with the connection between Munich and London — a 1½ hour flight, over eight flights a day — it would be possible for the family to come over frequently for the weekend or school holiday," he adds.

He wants his family to visit and explore, as they did before when here and in Turkey. "It's important especially for my daughters that they understand more about the world, how the world is thinking — another culture, another religion — and have that understanding that we are all human beings." He speaks to his daughters about events in the world, such as the war in Ukraine.

"When you are a father you try to give your children some identity, some thoughts about life — be humble, always have that fighting spirit — but now you have to explain that some people take some decisions [like going to war]."

He is a role model for his children and also a pioneer for black managers. "It's important that everyone gets the chance to enter [management] and to prove his quality," Ismaël says. "It doesn't matter [if they are] black, white. There are so many good coaches and it's all about taking your chance, but it's clear [that] to represent a community makes you proud." With that, Watford's new head coach returns to preparing for the new season.



The departing Liverpool quartet of Naby Keita, Milner, Roberto Firmino and

# WINTER'S WEEKEND

## Milner's 21 years at the top an inspiration

**1** What a top professional James Milner is, a beacon of brilliance to the younger players at Liverpool — when they see his dedication from diet to gym-work, training to games (now numbering 859), midfield to left back — and also to the older players when they see his enduring commitment at 37. Milner was only 16 years and 309 days old when he made his debut for Leeds United against West Ham United in November 2002 and to still be playing regularly in the Premier League 21 years later is a remarkable feat. Few free transfers can have delivered as much, particularly the Champions League and Premier League. The fact that Premier League clubs like Brighton are being linked with him says it all.

## Forest must back their miracle-worker again

**2** Let's hope that the dispiriting talk of Steve Cooper being moved on this summer finally now drifts off down the Trent. The Nottingham Forest head coach will not win manager of the year — Pep Guardiola will surely take it ahead of Mikel Arteta and Eddie Howe — but he has performed miracles. Building a team out of the avalanche of signings, following promotion and the return of loanees, is alchemy of the highest order. Keeping Forest up is a magnificent achievement by Cooper (with a respectful nod to Forest's passionate fans and Taiwo Awoniyi). Football's answer to Robin Hood has masterminded Forest ambushes of the likes of Liverpool and Arsenal. He deserves further backing.

JOHN POWELL/LIVERPOOL FC/GETTY IMAGES




Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain are given a special send-off after playing their final game for the club at Anfield on Saturday

# WONDERS

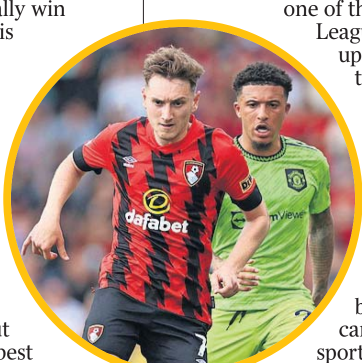
Our Chief Football Writer on rise of "Duffer", football's answer to Robin Hood and a story of true resilience

## Spurs need more role models like Kane

**3** If their record goalscorer decides to leave, few Tottenham Hotspur fans can truly begrudge Harry Kane a move to a club where he can actually win trophies. He turns 30 this summer and has given Spurs exceptional service. Given the mess the club are in, the forward's return of 28 goals and three assists in 37 Premier League games this season is impressive. Spurs desperately need more professionals of Kane's calibre and character but look likely to lose their best role model, leader and player.

## Brooks wins a battle bigger than football

**4** David Brooks's return to football after stage-two Hodgkin lymphoma, and first start in 598 days on Saturday, is more than one of the Premier League's most uplifting stories of the season. The 25-year-old Bournemouth midfielder's story of resilience, fighting his illness and then rebuilding his body and his career, transcends sport. Brooks, left, is an inspiration.



## Down-to-earth Duff is a manager on the rise

**5** After interviewing Scott Arfield at Burnley's training ground in 2015, I bumped into the man affectionately known as "Duffer". Michael Duff was considering retirement and spoke about his ambition to get into management. Duff learnt so much playing under Sean Dyche and now wanted to test himself. Duff thrived at Cheltenham Town, getting them promoted to League One in 2021, and has now guided Barnsley into that division's play-off final. He sets teams up well and is down to earth, swigging a beer during an interview after defeating Bolton in the semi-final second leg. Sheffield Wednesday represent difficult opposition under Darren Moore at Wembley but no one can doubt Duff's own rise.

# Young lions have Diego's dog and history in sights

Ian Foster dearly wants his England Under-20 side to be first to follow up Euros glory with the World Cup title, he tells **Paul Joyce**

Diego Maradona's last port of call is providing the backdrop for England Under-20's assault on the World Cup and so, at Gimnasia's training ground in Argentina, the daily reminders of an icon are hard to miss.

Not that Ian Foster, England's head coach, was expecting his own memories of the Argentina legend, who died in November 2020, to be stirred quite as they were during a recce last month.

"Gimnasia was Maradona's last club," he explained. "He was actually manager when he passed away. When we visited the training ground, I was chatting with representatives from the club, the [Argentina] federation and Fifa and a dog just came roaming across the pitches.

"They said to me: 'That's Diego's dog.' I said: 'Turn it in.' But they said he would come with his dog, then he passed away and the dog stayed at the training ground. There are loads of different back stories to this tournament. I genuinely do think the decision to bring it to Argentina will enhance the experience."

Originally, the finals were due to be played in Indonesia, but the southeast Asian country was stripped of the honour in late March amid concerns over whether it would host Israel. Reigning senior world champions Argentina stepped in, which served as a bonus given their own Under-20 side, coached by Javier Mascherano, had not originally qualified.

England pitched up in football-mad Buenos Aires last Wednesday intent on making history. Their campaign begins today against Tunisia in La Plata, with group games against Uruguay and Iraq to follow.

Foster's 20-man squad contains 16 players who won the Under-19 European Championship in Slovakia last summer under him, beating Israel 3-1 in the final, and no team have gone from winning that trophy to lifting the World Cup.

As ever, the timing of the tournament has caused headaches. Juventus refused to release Samuel Iling-Junior after an anterior cruciate ligament injury to Mattia De Sciglio ruled him out for the rest of the season, while injuries to Marc Cucurella and Ben Chilwell meant Chelsea blocked a call-up for Lewis Hall before also withdrawing Carney Chukwuemeka just as England prepared to fly out. Surgery on a shoulder problem also ruled out Borussia Dortmund's Jamie Bynoe-Gittens.

In addition, the original squad flew out with four players missing due to their involvement in the EFL play-offs. Peterborough United's Ronnie Edwards has joined up, but an injury to Aaron Ramsey, who was on loan at Middlesbrough from Aston Villa, means he has been replaced by Hull City midfielder Xavier Simons.

However, Callum Doyle and Brooke Norton-Cuffy, who are at Coventry on loan from Manchester City and Arsenal, respectively, will miss the group stage given their Wembley commitments. Familiar names who have travelled include Alfie Devine, of Tottenham Hotspur, the Bristol City midfielder Alex Scott and Manchester City's Liam Delap.

"Of course we speak to the players about winning after winning and no European nation has won the Euros and followed it up by winning the U20s World Cup. We want to be the first nation to do that," Foster said; he is being supported by technical adviser Hope Powell, the former England women's head coach.

Before departing the squad received a pep talk from Gareth Southgate and his assistant coach with the senior England team, Steve Holland, and the duo will remain a phone call away should Foster require any advice.

There is a temptation to assume Uruguay will be England's toughest group opponent and Tunisia and Iraq easier assignments, but Ukraine are the holders after beating South Korea in 2019.

Foster, 46, from Whiston, Liverpool, knows the danger of dismissing teams who may not appear to be powerhouses.

"There is no point thinking Brazil will be good, France will be good, but overlooking Iraq, for example," he said. "Take them in isolation and they are excellent."

England have taken an extra physio, their own chef and a security team in addition to the normal support staff to create an environment that allows the players to thrive. "We are really pleased there is a bit of continuity from the previous tournament in terms of selection," Foster said.

"It bodes well for us, because they have experience of going deep in a tournament, which will be worth its weight in gold."



Spurs' Devine is one of Foster's bright talents

**England U20's group games**

**Today** England v Tunisia
**Thursday** Uruguay v England
**Sunday** Iraq v England

*Each game kicks off at 7pm BST, will be held at La Plata Stadium and can be watched on the Fifa+ streaming service.*

*The knockout stage begins on May 30, with the final on June 11.*

## Premier League

| | P | Home W | D | L | F | A | Away W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ▶ 1 Manchester City (C) | 36 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 60 | 17 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 33 | 14 | 62 | 88 |
| ▶ 2 Arsenal | 37 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 48 | 25 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 35 | 18 | 40 | 81 |
| ▶ 3 Newcastle United | 36 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 36 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 31 | 18 | 35 | 69 |
| ▶ 4 Manchester United | 36 | 13 | 3 | 1 | 30 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 33 | 11 | 69 |
| ▶ 5 Liverpool | 37 | 13 | 5 | 1 | 46 | 17 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 66 |
| ▶ 6 Brighton & Hove Albion | 36 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 36 | 20 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 34 | 30 | 20 | 61 |
| ▲ 7 Aston Villa | 37 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 4 | 58 |
| ▼ 8 Tottenham Hotspur | 37 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 37 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 29 | 37 | 4 | 57 |
| ▶ 9 Brentford | 37 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 34 | 18 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 23 | 28 | 11 | 56 |
| ▶ 10 Fulham | 37 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 31 | 29 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 23 | 22 | 3 | 52 |
| ▲ 11 Crystal Palace | 37 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 22 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 26 | -9 | 44 |
| ▼ 12 Chelsea | 36 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 19 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 17 | 24 | -6 | 43 |
| ▶ 13 Wolverhampton Wanderers | 37 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 19 | 20 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 12 | 33 | -22 | 41 |
| ▲ 14 West Ham United | 37 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 24 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 15 | 29 | -12 | 40 |
| ▼ 15 Bournemouth | 37 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 20 | 28 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 17 | 42 | -33 | 39 |
| ▶ 16 Nottingham Forest | 37 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 27 | 24 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 10 | 43 | -30 | 37 |
| ▶ 17 Everton | 37 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 27 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 30 | -24 | 33 |
| ▶ 18 Leeds United | 37 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 33 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 22 | 41 | -27 | 31 |
| ▶ 19 Leicester City | 36 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 21 | 26 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 28 | 41 | -18 | 30 |
| ▶ 20 Southampton (R) | 37 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 15 | 33 | 4 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 36 | -37 | 24 |

## Sky Bet Championship

| | P | Home W | D | L | F | A | Away W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Burnley (C) | 46 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 49 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 38 | 20 | 52 | 101 |
| 2 Sheffield United (P) | 46 | 16 | 3 | 4 | 47 | 19 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 26 | 20 | 34 | 91 |
| 3 Luton Town | 46 | 10 | 9 | 4 | 31 | 21 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 26 | 18 | 18 | 80 |
| 4 Middlesbrough | 46 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 46 | 19 | 9 | 2 | 12 | 38 | 37 | 28 | 75 |
| 5 Coventry City | 46 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 30 | 24 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 28 | 22 | 12 | 70 |
| 6 Sunderland | 46 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 33 | 33 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 35 | 22 | 13 | 69 |
| 7 Blackburn Rovers | 46 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 27 | 19 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 25 | 35 | -2 | 69 |
| 8 Millwall | 46 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 34 | 22 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 23 | 28 | 7 | 68 |
| 9 West Bromwich Albion | 46 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 28 | 33 | 6 | 66 |
| 10 Swansea City | 46 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 38 | 32 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 30 | 32 | 4 | 66 |
| 11 Watford | 46 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 35 | 23 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 30 | 3 | 63 |
| 12 Preston North End | 46 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 28 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 25 | 31 | -14 | 63 |
| 13 Norwich City | 46 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 27 | 27 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 30 | 27 | 3 | 62 |
| 14 Bristol City | 46 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 30 | 24 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 25 | 32 | -1 | 59 |
| 15 Hull City | 46 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 24 | 27 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 27 | 34 | -10 | 58 |
| 16 Stoke City | 46 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 25 | 27 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 30 | 27 | 1 | 53 |
| 17 Birmingham City | 46 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 24 | 24 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 34 | -11 | 53 |
| 18 Huddersfield Town | 46 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 26 | 25 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 21 | 37 | -15 | 53 |
| 19 Rotherham United | 46 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 37 | 30 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 30 | -11 | 50 |
| 20 Queens Park Rangers | 46 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 21 | 35 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 23 | 36 | -27 | 50 |
| 21 Cardiff City | 46 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 20 | 24 | 7 | 3 | 13 | 21 | 34 | -17 | 49 |
| 22 *Reading (R) | 46 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 31 | 24 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 15 | 44 | -22 | 44 |
| 23 Blackpool (R) | 46 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 28 | 34 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 20 | 38 | -24 | 44 |
| 24 †Wigan Athletic (R) | 46 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 17 | 35 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 21 | 30 | -27 | 42 |

deducted *6pts/†3pts for breaching EFL rules

## Sky Bet League One

| | P | Home W | D | L | F | A | Away W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Plymouth Argyle (C) | 46 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 44 | 16 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 38 | 31 | 35 | 101 |
| 2 Ipswich (P) | 46 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 60 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 41 | 22 | 66 | 98 |
| 3 Sheffield Wednesday | 46 | 16 | 6 | 1 | 49 | 16 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 32 | 21 | 44 | 96 |
| 4 Barnsley | 46 | 16 | 1 | 6 | 45 | 24 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 35 | 23 | 33 | 86 |
| 5 Bolton Wanderers | 46 | 14 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 30 | 23 | 26 | 81 |
| 6 Peterborough United | 46 | 13 | 4 | 6 | 38 | 25 | 11 | 1 | 11 | 37 | 29 | 21 | 77 |
| 7 Derby County | 46 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 40 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 27 | 26 | 21 | 76 |
| 8 Portsmouth | 46 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 34 | 22 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 27 | 28 | 11 | 70 |
| 9 Wycombe Wanderers | 46 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 32 | 24 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 27 | 27 | 8 | 69 |
| 10 Charlton Athletic | 46 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 44 | 31 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 26 | 35 | 4 | 62 |
| 11 Lincoln City | 46 | 7 | 14 | 2 | 22 | 17 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 25 | 30 | 0 | 62 |
| 12 Shrewsbury Town | 46 | 11 | 3 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 20 | 29 | -9 | 59 |
| 13 Fleetwood Town | 46 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 25 | 25 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 28 | 26 | 2 | 58 |
| 14 Exeter City | 46 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 36 | 27 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 28 | 41 | -4 | 56 |
| 15 Burton Albion | 46 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 28 | 33 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 29 | 46 | -22 | 56 |
| 16 Cheltenham Town | 46 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 25 | 27 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 20 | 34 | -16 | 54 |
| 17 Bristol Rovers | 46 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 36 | 8 | 4 | 11 | 31 | 37 | -15 | 53 |
| 18 Port Vale | 46 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 23 | 30 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 25 | 41 | -23 | 49 |
| 19 Oxford United | 46 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 29 | 31 | 5 | 9 | 9 | 20 | 25 | -7 | 47 |
| 20 Cambridge United | 46 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 24 | 26 | 4 | 3 | 16 | 17 | 42 | -27 | 46 |
| 21 Milton Keynes Dons (R) | 46 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 20 | 33 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 24 | 33 | -22 | 45 |
| 22 Morecambe (R) | 46 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 30 | 31 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 47 | -31 | 44 |
| 23 Accrington Stanley (R) | 46 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 27 | 39 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 13 | 38 | -37 | 44 |
| 24 Forest Green Rovers (R) | 46 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 15 | 42 | 1 | 7 | 15 | 16 | 47 | -58 | 27 |

## Sky Bet League Two

| | P | Home W | D | L | F | A | Away W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 Leyton Orient (C) | 46 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 32 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 29 | 21 | 27 | 91 |
| 2 Stevenage (P) | 46 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 40 | 16 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 85 |
| 3 Northampton Town (P) | 46 | 12 | 6 | 5 | 31 | 20 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 31 | 22 | 20 | 83 |
| 4 Stockport County | 46 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 32 | 16 | 11 | 4 | 8 | 33 | 21 | 28 | 79 |
| 5 Carlisle United | 46 | 11 | 8 | 4 | 34 | 21 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 32 | 22 | 23 | 76 |
| 6 Bradford City | 46 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 33 | 23 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 76 |
| 7 Salford City | 46 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 28 | 23 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 44 | 31 | 18 | 75 |
| 8 Mansfield Town | 46 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 37 | 31 | 12 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 24 | 17 | 75 |
| 9 Barrow | 46 | 12 | 3 | 8 | 29 | 19 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 34 | -6 | 62 |
| 10 Swindon Town | 46 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 31 | 24 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 31 | 6 | 61 |
| 11 Grimsby Town | 46 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 24 | 25 | 9 | 3 | 11 | 25 | 31 | -7 | 61 |
| 12 Tranmere Rovers | 46 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 27 | 20 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 18 | 28 | -3 | 58 |
| 13 Crewe Alexandra | 46 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 32 | 26 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 16 | 34 | -12 | 58 |
| 14 Sutton United | 46 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 26 | 21 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 20 | 37 | -12 | 58 |
| 15 Newport County | 46 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 30 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 26 | 26 | -3 | 57 |
| 16 Walsall | 46 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 18 | 30 | -3 | 55 |
| 17 Gillingham | 46 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 21 | 20 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 15 | 29 | -13 | 55 |
| 18 Doncaster Rovers | 46 | 11 | 1 | 11 | 27 | 30 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 19 | 35 | -19 | 55 |
| 19 Harrogate Town | 46 | 6 | 10 | 7 | 31 | 32 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 28 | 36 | -9 | 52 |
| 20 Colchester United | 46 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 25 | 23 | 6 | 4 | 13 | 19 | 28 | -7 | 49 |
| 21 AFC Wimbledon | 46 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 26 | 30 | 4 | 8 | 11 | 22 | 30 | -12 | 48 |
| 22 Crawley Town | 46 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 31 | 30 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 17 | 41 | -23 | 46 |
| 23 Hartlepool United (R) | 46 | 5 | 10 | 8 | 27 | 36 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 42 | -26 | 43 |
| 24 Rochdale (R) | 46 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 29 | 38 | 4 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 32 | -24 | 38 |



# Game in numbers

**Bill Edgar** on Arsenal's time at the top, more manager madness and the long wait for a hat-trick in the Premier League

## City's domestic rule

Manchester City have equalled the record of three consecutive English league titles, which is the joint shortest such record run among Europe's 54 top divisions — Denmark, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and San Marino have also seen no club triumph for more than three years in a row. If City beat Manchester United in the FA Cup final they will have won a majority of the domestic competitions entered during Pep Guardiola's seven years as manager (11 out of 21).

Manchester is the city with the most league titles: 29 (United 20, City nine) to Liverpool's 28 (Liverpool 19, Everton nine). Leeds United's title win under Howard Wilkinson in 1992 was the last by an English manager and the last by a team whose dominant shirt colour was not red or blue.

City, who beat Chelsea yesterday, scored 100 home goals in all competitions this season, 100 in 2018-19 and only 15 in 2006-07. Frank Lampard has lost ten of his past 15 league games as Chelsea manager over two spells; yet as a Chelsea player Lampard lost only ten of 150 league matches from May 2004 to November 2008.

## Top tale

Arsenal have spent 248 days top of the table this season yet Tottenham Hotspur have only been on top for 135 days in total since 1964. Arsenal's 248 days is the most for non-title winners, beating Leeds' 247 in 1970-71. Arsenal lost to a 19th-minute effort in their 19th away league game of the season — Nottingham Forest's No10 and No9 combined for the goal — to extend their run without the league title to 19 years. If they lose next week Arsenal will have gained 19 points fewer in the second half of the season than in the first half.

### POCHETTINO REINFORCES

Chelsea's imminent appointment of Mauricio Pochettino means they and Tottenham Hotspur will become the first pair of clubs to have been led by the same five managers in the top flight: Glenn Hoddle, André Villas-Boas, José



5

## Seagulls fly abroad

Of the 65 clubs to have played in the top flight, the one closest to continental Europe — Brighton & Hove Albion — yesterday assured themselves of a first European campaign. West Ham United will be

# Vinícius: La Liga belongs to racists

**LA LIGA**





Vinícius confronts fans after he was abused during the defeat against Valencia

Vinícius Júnior, the Real Madrid forward, has launched an impassioned attack on the Spanish football authorities — saying that "racism is normal in La Liga" — after he was subjected to monkey chants and other racist abuse during his side's 1-0 defeat at Valencia last night.

Midway through the second half, play was delayed for several minutes after Vinícius, 22, appeared to be racially abused by a Valencia supporter. The Brazilian forward stood in front of the fans behind the goal and pointed to one, with his team-mate Éder Militão by his side.

Ricardo de Burgos Bengoetxea, the referee, spoke to stadium officials, who made an announcement calling for the racist insults to stop. Play resumed about ten minutes later.

Vinícius has been subjected to such racist behaviour within Spanish grounds for much of the season, while an effigy of the player was hanged from a bridge in Madrid before the derby against Atletico in January.

After the latest incident in Valencia last night, he tweeted: "It wasn't the first time, nor the second, nor the third. Racism is normal in La Liga. The competition thinks it's normal, the federation does too and the opponents encourage it. I'm so sorry.

"The championship that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano [Ronaldo] and [Lionel] Messi today belongs to racists. A beautiful nation, which welcomed me and which I love, but which agreed to export the image of a racist country to the world.

"I'm sorry for the Spaniards who don't agree, but today, in Brazil, Spain is known as a country of racists. And unfortunately, for everything that happens each week, I have no defence. I agree. But I am strong and I will go to the end against racists. Even if far from here." Vinícius was later sent off in stoppage time for apparently striking Hugo Duro, the Valencia striker, during a brawl.

His anger was echoed by the Real head coach, Carlo Ancelotti, who said: "I don't want to talk about football, I want to talk about what happened here, it is more important. A stadium shouting 'monkey' at a player, and that a coach has to think about taking off the player — there's something bad in this league. The game should have been stopped. It wasn't only one person, it was a stadium racially insulting a player."

Dani Ceballos, the Real midfielder, said: "There's a lack of respect for Vinícius shown continuously at almost every stadium in Spain.

"It's true the coach asked him if he wanted to keep playing. Vinícius is a professional and said he wanted to keep helping the team."

Justin Kluivert, the Valencia striker, said: "I apologise from us, all of Valencia, because this is not football."

The Brazilian football federation's president, Ednaldo Rodrigues, also condemned the abuse. "How long are we going to experience, in the middle of the 21st century, episodes like the one we witnessed, once again, in La Liga?" he wrote on Instagram. "How long will humanity remain just a spectator and an accomplice in cruel acts of racism?"

## CHELSEA-SPURS CONNECTION

Mourinho and Antonio Conte are the others (unlike Pochettino, those four all guided Chelsea first). In the league as a whole, Chelsea and Tottenham are among 19 pairs of clubs who have shared five or more managers, as the chart shows. Around two-thirds of the pairs are fairly close geographically, including two of the three who top the list having appointed the same seven managers: London rivals Crystal Palace and Queens Park Rangers and North East neighbours Darlington and Hartlepool United. Palace and West Bromwich Albion appear four times in this chart, including with each other.

**Most permanent managers shared by league clubs:**



**Crystal Palace/QPR 7**
Ian Holloway, Paul Hart, Neil Warnock, Iain Dowie, Trevor Francis, Alan Mullery, Terry Venables

**Sheff Wed/West Brom 7**
Darren Moore, Tony Pulis, Steve Bruce, Gary Megson, Alan Irvine, Ron Atkinson, Vic Buckingham

**Darlington/Hartlepool 7**
Mick Tait, Alan Murray, Cyril Knowles, Billy Horner, Ken Hale, Bobby Gurney, Jack Carr

**Blackpool/Bury 6**
Lee Clark, Sam Ellis, Stan Ternent, Allan Brown, Bob Stokoe, Les Shannon

**Chelsea/Tottenham 5**
Glenn Hoddle, André Villas-Boas, José Mourinho, Antonio Conte, Mauricio Pochettino

**Cardiff/Swansea 5**
Alan Cork, Frank Burrows, Terry Yorath, Trevor Morris, Billy McCandless

**Fulham/QPR 5**
Mark Hughes, Ray Wilkins, Ray Harford, Alex Stock, Ned Liddle

**Aston Villa/West Brom 5**
Steve Bruce, Roberto Di Matteo, Brian Little, Ron Saunders, Ron Atkinson

**Coventry/West Brom 5**
Tony Mowbray, Ron Atkinson, Bobby Gould, Don Howe, Jesse Carver

**Fulham/Watford 5**
Marco Silva, Claudio Ranieri, Slavisa Jokanovic, Roy Hodgson, Ray Lewington

**Birmingham/Nottingham Forest 5**
Aitor Karanka, Steve Cotterill, Chris Hughton, Alex McLeish, Dave Mackay

**Crystal Palace/Middlesbrough 5**
Tony Pulis, Neil Warnock, Terry Venables, Malcolm Allison, Jack Robson

**Huddersfield/Hull 5**
Steve Bruce, Brian Horton, Bobby Collins, Ambrose Langley, Stan Ternent

**Blackburn/Newcastle 5**
Sam Allardyce, Graeme Souness, Kenny Dalglish, Jim Smith, Gordon Lee

**Crystal Palace/Plymouth 5**
Tony Pulis, Ian Holloway, Neil Warnock, Malcolm Allison, Jack Tresadern

**Leyton Orient/Millwall 5**
Kenny Jackett, George Petchey, Benny Fenton, Jimmy Seed, Charlie Hewitt

**Bradford City/Hull 5**
Phil Parkinson, Peter Taylor, Terry Dolan, Bob Brocklebank, David Menzies

**Crystal Palace/West Brom 5**
Roy Hodgson, Sam Allardyce, Alan Pardew, Tony Pulis, Steve Bruce

**Notts County/Oldham 5**
Harry Kewell, John Sheridan, Keith Curle, Neil Warnock, Frank Womack

the first English club to have won more games in European competition than in the league in one season (13 to 11 at present, with one European and one league match left). The difference between West Ham's biggest and smallest official home league attendance in 1954-55 was 29,831 (biggest: 34,238; smallest: 4,373); the difference this season was just 35 (biggest: 62,478; smallest: 62,443).

### Kane landmarks

Brentford, who beat Tottenham 3-1, and Brighton have produced a combined 15 league wins and only nine defeats against big-six opponents since April 2022. Tottenham's Harry Kane became the leading goalscorer in top-flight London derbies on 51, with one more than Jimmy Greaves. Kane has scored a record 23 top-flight goals in May (in 29 matches): next is Ian Rush on 21, followed by Tony Cottee and Graeme Sharp on 16. Liverpool were unbeaten in the first 144 games in which Rush scored for them — but Tottenham have lost four of their past five matches in which Kane has scored. Kane is the first player to have scored his team's only goal 12 times in a top-flight season since Bradford Park Avenue's David McLean in 1920-21.

### Manager mess

Leeds United, Leicester City and Southampton have had, combined, as many managers since Bonfire Night (ten, including caretakers) as league wins; and since mid-March Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur have had twice as many managers in total (six) as league wins (three).

### Hat-tricks halted

The four-month wait for a Premier League hat-trick is the longest within a season for 14 years (excluding the Covid pause); there have been 48 braces (exactly two goals) since the last hat-trick (three or more goals). None of the past 55 Premier League games has ended 0-0. The 47 goalkeeper bookings (mostly for time-wasting) is nine more than in any other Premier League season.

### Ups and downs

In the past five seasons Liverpool will have recorded points tallies either in the 90s (three times) or the 60s (twice). For the first season in league history a top-flight club's average league attendance was lower than the third tier's average: Bournemouth recorded 10,309 compared with League One's 10,774.

### Play-off patterns

Bolton lost a play-off twice: Bolton Wanderers were defeated on Friday and Luke Bolton lost with Salford City on Saturday. Stockport will not be the only County to have contested a Wembley play-off final this month (also Notts County) — and not the only Hatters to do so (also Luton Town).

MARTIN DALTON/ALAMY




**Bryan Mbeumo scores his second goal as Brentford beat another big-six club**

# 'Shipwreck Steve' sets sail with the Vase

**IVAN SPECK**

To Wembley's history of goalscoring heroes we can add the name of Ascot United substitute Kai Walters, whose winning goal in the FA Vase final against Newport Pagnell Town was his last act as a player in English football.

At 26, the man described as "Shipwreck Steve" by a team-mate in yesterday's Non-League Finals Day match programme is emigrating to Australia with his family in September.

Walters said: "What a way to end it and cap off my career in this country. It's a surreal feeling.

"That was sort of my plan, win the league, win the Vase and sail off into the sunset. Hopefully I'll get a club over there."

Walters sprinted to the near post and stooped to head home Sean McCormack's 80th-minute cross as a relentless Ascot finally overcame last season's winners 1-0.

Yesterday's FA Trophy final, which began 75 minutes after the victorious Ascot players left the pitch, was won by Halifax Town for the second time in eight years.

Their 1-0 victory over Gateshead was decided by Jamie Cooke in the 44th minute.

## Results

**Premier League**

**Bournemouth** (0) **0** **Man United** (1) **1**
Casemiro 9
10,240

**Brighton** (2) **3** **Southampton** (0) **1**
Ferguson 29, 40; Gross 69 — Elyounoussi 58
31,507

**Fulham** (1) **2** **Crystal Palace** (1) **2**
Mitrovic 45+5 (pen) 61 — Édouard 34, Ward 83
24,356

**Liverpool** (0) **1** **Aston Villa** (1) **1**
Firmino 89 — Ramsey 27
53,306

**Man City** (1) **1** **Chelsea** (0) **0**
Álvarez 12
53,490

**Nottm Forest** (1) **1** **Arsenal** (0) **0**
Awoniyi 19
29,514

**Tottenham** (1) **1** **Brentford** (0) **3**
Kane 8 — Mbeumo 50, 62; Wissa 88
61,514

**West Ham** (1) **3** **Leeds** (1) **1**
Rice 31; Bowen 72; Lanzini 90+4 — Rodrigo 17
62,478

**Wolves** (1) **1** **Everton** (0) **1**
Hwang 34 — Mina 90+9
31,684

**Sky Bet Two play-offs**
**Semi-finals, second leg**

**Carlisle** (1) **1** **Bradford City** (0) **0**
Halliday 21 (og); Guy 98; Barclay 112 — Derbyshire 106
15,401
(aet; Carlisle United win 3-2 on agg)

**Stockport Co** (0) **1** **Salford** (0) **0**
Olaofe 68; Stretton 115 — Mallan 112
10,023
(aet; 2-2 on agg; Stockport win 3-1 on pens)

**FA Trophy final**

**Halifax** (1) **1** **Gateshead** (0) **0**
Cooke 44
(at Wembley Stadium)

**FA Vase final**

**Ascot Utd** (0) **1** **Newport Pagnell** (0) **0**
Walters 81
(at Wembley Stadium)

**Women's Super League** Aston Villa 3 Liverpool 3; Chelsea 2 Arsenal 0; Everton 2 Brighton 1; Leicester 1 West Ham 2; Manchester Utd 2 Manchester City 1; Tottenham 4 Reading 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chelsea | 21 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 63 | 15 | 48 | 55 |
| Man Utd | 21 | 17 | 2 | 2 | 55 | 12 | 43 | 53 |
| Arsenal | 21 | 15 | 2 | 4 | 49 | 14 | 35 | 47 |
| Man City | 21 | 14 | 2 | 5 | 47 | 23 | 24 | 44 |
| Aston Villa | 21 | 10 | 4 | 7 | 45 | 37 | 8 | 34 |
| Everton | 21 | 9 | 3 | 9 | 27 | 33 | -6 | 30 |
| Liverpool | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 24 | 38 | -14 | 23 |
| West Ham | 21 | 6 | 2 | 13 | 21 | 42 | -21 | 20 |
| Tottenham | 21 | 5 | 2 | 14 | 29 | 45 | -16 | 17 |
| Brighton | 21 | 4 | 4 | 13 | 26 | 62 | -36 | 16 |
| Leicester | 21 | 4 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 48 | -34 | 13 |
| Reading | 21 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 23 | 54 | -31 | 11 |

**Cinch Scottish Premiership**

**Celtic** (1) **2** **St Mirren** (2) **2**
Furuhashi 14; McGregor 81 — Main 4, 39
58,742

**Hearts** (1) **2** **Aberdeen** (1) **1**
Ginnelly 43; Shankland 56 — Pollock 31
18,661

**Hibernian** (0) **1** **Rangers** (1) **3**
Hanlon 90+3 — Tavernier 32; Hagi 55; Cantwell 86
18,172

**Kilmarnock** (0) **0** **St Johnstone** (1) **1**
Gordon 11
6,004
Sent off: D Watson (Kilmarnock) 44

**Livingston** (1) **2** **Dundee Utd** (1) **1**
Anderson 11; Penrice 59 — Harkes 21
2,612
Sent off: A Behich (Dundee Utd) 90+4

**Motherwell** (0) **1** **Ross County** (0) **0**
Van Veen 90+9 (pen)
5,289
Sent off: O Edwards (Ross County) 90+1

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celtic (C) | 36 | 31 | 3 | 2 | 107 | 30 | 77 | 96 |
| Rangers | 36 | 28 | 4 | 4 | 88 | 35 | 53 | 88 |
| Aberdeen | 36 | 17 | 3 | 16 | 53 | 55 | -2 | 54 |
| Hearts | 36 | 15 | 7 | 14 | 60 | 54 | 6 | 52 |
| Hibernian | 36 | 14 | 6 | 16 | 52 | 56 | -4 | 48 |
| St Mirren | 36 | 12 | 10 | 14 | 43 | 55 | -12 | 46 |
| Motherwell | 36 | 13 | 7 | 16 | 49 | 48 | 1 | 46 |
| Livingston | 36 | 13 | 6 | 17 | 35 | 57 | -22 | 45 |
| St Johnstone | 36 | 11 | 6 | 19 | 36 | 56 | -20 | 39 |
| Kilmarnock | 36 | 9 | 7 | 20 | 31 | 61 | -30 | 34 |
| Ross County | 36 | 9 | 6 | 21 | 33 | 54 | -21 | 33 |
| Dundee Utd | 36 | 8 | 7 | 21 | 38 | 64 | -26 | 31 |

**Cinch play-offs: Finals, second leg**
**Championship**

**Hamilton** (1) **2** **Airdrieonians** (0) **1**
Smith 23; Tiéhi 80 — McGill 90+1
3,429
(aet; 2-2 on agg; Airdrieonians win 6-5 on pens)

**League Two**

**Albion** (0) **0** **The Spartans** (1) **1**
Henderson 16 (pen)
**Sent off**: B Malcolm (Albion Rovers) 77
(The Spartans w1n 2-1 on agg)

**Scottish Women's Premier League** Dundee Utd 1 Hamilton 1; Motherwell 3 Aberdeen 0; Celtic 2 Hearts 0; Partick 1 Hibernian 2; Spartans 2 Glasgow Women 0; Rangers 0 Glasgow City 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Glasgow City (C) | 32 | 27 | 2 | 3 | 112 | 18 | 94 | 83 |
| Celtic | 32 | 26 | 3 | 3 | 115 | 11 | 104 | 81 |
| Rangers | 32 | 24 | 6 | 2 | 111 | 9 | 102 | 78 |
| Hearts | 32 | 14 | 7 | 11 | 39 | 42 | -3 | 49 |
| Hibernian | 32 | 11 | 6 | 15 | 54 | 51 | 3 | 39 |
| Partick | 32 | 9 | 5 | 18 | 42 | 73 | -31 | 32 |
| Spartans | 32 | 16 | 6 | 10 | 48 | 51 | -3 | 54 |
| Motherwell | 32 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 52 | 53 | -1 | 47 |
| Aberdeen | 32 | 9 | 3 | 20 | 39 | 77 | -38 | 30 |
| Dundee Utd | 32 | 8 | 5 | 19 | 45 | 76 | -31 | 29 |
| Hamilton | 32 | 8 | 3 | 21 | 38 | 93 | -55 | 27 |
| Glasgow W (R) | 32 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 9 | 150 | -141 | 0 |

**French Ligue 1** Ajaccio 0 Rennes 5; Auxerre 1 PSG 2; Brest 2 Clermont 1; Lille 2 Marseille 1; Lorient 1 Lens 3; Nantes 0 Montpellier 3; Nice 0 Toulouse 0; Reims 2 Angers 2; Troyes 1 Strasbourg 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PSG | 36 | 27 | 3 | 6 | 86 | 36 | 50 | 84 |
| Lens | 36 | 23 | 9 | 4 | 62 | 28 | 34 | 78 |
| Marseille | 36 | 22 | 7 | 7 | 66 | 37 | 29 | 73 |
| Monaco | 36 | 19 | 8 | 9 | 69 | 54 | 15 | 65 |
| Lille | 36 | 18 | 9 | 9 | 62 | 42 | 20 | 63 |
| Rennes | 36 | 19 | 5 | 12 | 65 | 38 | 27 | 62 |
| Lyon | 36 | 17 | 8 | 11 | 61 | 44 | 17 | 59 |
| Clermont | 36 | 15 | 8 | 13 | 40 | 47 | -7 | 53 |
| Nice | 36 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 42 | 34 | 8 | 52 |
| Lorient | 36 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 50 | 50 | 0 | 52 |
| Reims | 36 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 44 | 39 | 5 | 51 |
| Montpellier | 36 | 14 | 5 | 17 | 60 | 58 | 2 | 47 |
| Toulouse | 36 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 48 | 55 | -7 | 44 |
| Brest | 36 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 41 | 51 | -10 | 41 |
| Strasbourg | 36 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 49 | 56 | -7 | 39 |
| Auxerre | 36 | 8 | 10 | 18 | 33 | 59 | -26 | 34 |
| Nantes | 36 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 53 | -18 | 33 |
| Troyes (R) | 36 | 4 | 11 | 21 | 43 | 78 | -35 | 23 |
| Ajaccio (R) | 36 | 6 | 5 | 25 | 22 | 71 | -49 | 23 |
| Angers (R) | 36 | 3 | 6 | 27 | 31 | 79 | -48 | 15 |

**Italian Serie A** AC Milan 5 Sampdoria 1; Atalanta 3 Verona 1; Cremonese 1 Bologna 5; Lecce 0 Spezia 0; Napoli 3 Inter Milan 1; Torino 1 Fiorentina 1; Udinese 0 Lazio 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Napoli (C) | 36 | 27 | 5 | 4 | 73 | 26 | 47 | 86 |
| Juventus | 35 | 21 | 6 | 8 | 54 | 28 | 26 | 69 |
| Lazio | 36 | 20 | 8 | 8 | 55 | 28 | 27 | 68 |
| Inter Milan | 36 | 21 | 3 | 12 | 67 | 40 | 27 | 66 |
| AC Milan | 36 | 18 | 10 | 8 | 60 | 42 | 18 | 64 |
| Atalanta | 36 | 18 | 7 | 11 | 59 | 43 | 16 | 61 |
| Roma | 35 | 17 | 8 | 10 | 45 | 33 | 12 | 59 |
| Monza | 36 | 14 | 10 | 12 | 46 | 46 | 0 | 52 |
| Bologna | 36 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 48 | 45 | 3 | 50 |
| Fiorentina | 36 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 48 | 41 | 7 | 50 |
| Torino | 36 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 38 | 40 | -2 | 50 |
| Udinese | 36 | 11 | 13 | 12 | 45 | 44 | 1 | 46 |
| Sassuolo | 36 | 12 | 8 | 16 | 44 | 56 | -12 | 44 |
| Empoli | 35 | 9 | 12 | 14 | 32 | 45 | -13 | 39 |
| Salernitana | 35 | 8 | 14 | 13 | 43 | 56 | -13 | 38 |
| Lecce | 36 | 7 | 12 | 17 | 30 | 43 | -13 | 33 |
| Spezia | 36 | 6 | 13 | 17 | 30 | 56 | -26 | 31 |
| Verona | 36 | 7 | 9 | 20 | 29 | 55 | -26 | 30 |
| Cremonese (R) | 36 | 4 | 12 | 20 | 32 | 66 | -34 | 24 |
| Sampdoria (R) | 36 | 3 | 9 | 24 | 22 | 67 | -45 | 18 |

**German Bundesliga** Augsburg 0 Borussia Dortmund 3; Bayer Leverkusen 2 Borussia Mönchengladbach 2; Bayern Munich 1 RB Leipzig 3; Hertha Berlin 1 Bochum 1; Hoffenheim 4 Union Berlin 2; Mainz 1 Stuttgart 4; Schalke 2 Eintracht Frankfurt 2; Werder Bremen 1 Cologne 1.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B Dortmund | 33 | 22 | 4 | 7 | 81 | 42 | 39 | 70 |
| Bayern Munich | 33 | 20 | 8 | 5 | 90 | 37 | 53 | 68 |
| RB Leipzig | 33 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 60 | 39 | 21 | 63 |
| Union Berlin | 33 | 17 | 8 | 8 | 50 | 38 | 12 | 59 |
| Freiburg | 33 | 17 | 8 | 8 | 50 | 42 | 8 | 59 |
| B Leverkusen | 33 | 14 | 8 | 11 | 57 | 46 | 11 | 50 |
| Wolfsburg | 33 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 56 | 46 | 10 | 49 |
| E Frankfurt | 33 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 56 | 51 | 5 | 47 |
| Mainz | 33 | 12 | 9 | 12 | 52 | 53 | -1 | 45 |
| Cologne | 33 | 10 | 12 | 11 | 48 | 52 | -4 | 42 |
| B M'gladbach | 33 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 50 | 55 | -5 | 40 |
| Werder Bremen | 33 | 10 | 6 | 17 | 51 | 63 | -12 | 36 |
| Hoffenheim | 33 | 10 | 5 | 18 | 47 | 56 | -9 | 35 |
| Augsburg | 33 | 9 | 7 | 17 | 42 | 61 | -19 | 34 |
| Stuttgart | 33 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 44 | 56 | -12 | 32 |
| Bochum | 33 | 9 | 5 | 19 | 37 | 72 | -35 | 32 |
| Schalke | 33 | 7 | 10 | 16 | 33 | 67 | -34 | 31 |
| Hertha (R) | 33 | 6 | 8 | 19 | 40 | 68 | -28 | 26 |

**Spanish La Liga**: Almería 3 Mallorca 0; Athletic Bilbao 2 Celta Vigo 1; Atlético Madrid 3 Osasuna 0; Barcelona 1 Real Sociedad 2; Getafe 1 Elche 1; Girona 1 Villarreal 2; Rayo Vallecano 1 Espanyol 2; Sevilla 0 Real Betis 0; Valencia 1 Real Madrid 0.

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Barcelona C) | 35 | 27 | 4 | 4 | 65 | 15 | 50 | 85 |
| Atlético Madrid | 35 | 22 | 6 | 7 | 63 | 27 | 36 | 72 |
| Real Madrid | 35 | 22 | 5 | 8 | 70 | 33 | 37 | 71 |
| Real Sociedad | 35 | 19 | 8 | 8 | 47 | 32 | 15 | 65 |
| Villarreal | 35 | 18 | 6 | 11 | 54 | 36 | 18 | 60 |
| Real Betis | 35 | 16 | 8 | 11 | 43 | 38 | 5 | 56 |
| Athletic Bilbao | 35 | 14 | 8 | 13 | 46 | 39 | 7 | 50 |
| Girona | 35 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 55 | 50 | 5 | 48 |
| Sevilla | 35 | 13 | 9 | 13 | 44 | 49 | -5 | 48 |
| Osasuna | 35 | 13 | 8 | 14 | 32 | 39 | -7 | 47 |
| Rayo Vallecano | 35 | 12 | 10 | 13 | 42 | 47 | -5 | 46 |
| Mallorca | 35 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 33 | 40 | -7 | 44 |
| Valencia | 35 | 11 | 7 | 17 | 39 | 41 | -2 | 40 |
| Almería | 35 | 11 | 6 | 18 | 46 | 61 | -15 | 39 |
| Celta Vigo | 35 | 10 | 9 | 16 | 40 | 50 | -10 | 39 |
| Cádiz | 35 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 28 | 50 | -22 | 38 |
| Getafe | 35 | 8 | 11 | 16 | 31 | 44 | -13 | 35 |
| Real Valladolid | 35 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 30 | 62 | -32 | 35 |
| Espanyol | 35 | 8 | 10 | 17 | 44 | 61 | -17 | 34 |
| Elche (R) | 35 | 4 | 8 | 23 | 27 | 65 | -38 | 20 |

## Fixtures

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Today

**Premier League** Newcastle Utd v Leicester (8.0).

Tomorrow

**Premier League** Brighton v Manchester City (8.0).

**Cinch Scottish Premiership** Aberdeen v St Mirren; Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock; Hibernian v Celtic; Livingston v Motherwell; Rangers v Hearts; Ross County v St Johnstone.

Thursday

**Premier League** Manchester Utd v Chelsea (8.0).

Friday

**Cinch Scottish Premiership play-offs Semi-final, second leg** Ayr (0) v Partick (3).

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Saturday

**Women's Super League** Arsenal v Aston Villa; Brighton v Leicester; Liverpool v Manchester Utd; Manchester City v Everton; Reading v Chelsea; West Ham v Tottenham.

**Cinch Scottish Premiership** (12.30): Celtic v Aberdeen; Hearts v Hibernian; St Mirren v Rangers.

Kick-off 4.30 unless stated

Sunday

**Premier League** Arsenal v Wolverhampton; Aston Villa v Brighton; Brentford v Manchester City; Chelsea v Newcastle Utd; Crystal Palace v Nottingham Forest; Everton v Bournemouth; Leeds Utd v Tottenham; Leicester v West Ham; Manchester Utd v Fulham; Southampton v Liverpool.

**Cinch Premiership** (3.0): Kilmarnock v Ross County; Motherwell v Dundee Utd; St Johnstone v Livingston.

**IAN HAWKEY**





European Football

# Tuchel turns on stars as Dortmund capitalise on Bayern complacency






Haller, right, celebrates the first of his two goals in Dortmund's win over Augsburg that lifted them into top spot above Bayern, where Tuchel, left, has been struggling

If you take him at his word, Thomas Tuchel spent yesterday purposely removed from the Bundesliga title race. An exasperated Bayern Munich head coach had said he would not be watching Borussia Dortmund's visit to Augsburg. No, he declared the previous evening, he had an alternative form of masochism in mind: "I'll be looking at our game again — if I can manage it."

Bayern's penultimate fixture in the tightest championship duel in Europe's leading leagues looks, however often Tuchel re-watches it, very much like the defeat that ends an era. Bayern, uninterrupted holders of the Bundesliga Shield since 2013, failed to hold a lead at home to RB Leipzig and lost 3-1. Twenty-four hours later, news reached Tuchel that Dortmund had beaten 10-man Augsburg 3-0 to leapfrog Bayern and go two points clear at the top. After many undulations, neither of the leading pair are entirely to be trusted, but as long as Dortmund, at home to Mainz on Saturday, match or better what Bayern do away to Cologne, Germany will end its long wait for a fresh champion.

Don't expect a becalmed Tuchel through those last 90 minutes of this cliffhanger. He left the Allianz Arena agitated after the Leipzig ambush, the latest sharp twist in a period of concentrated stress that has made up his short time so far at Bayern. Fifty-one days ago, just after succeeding the sacked Julian Nagelsmann, Tuchel looked the perfect solution to the knotty title race, his first game in charge a 4-2 win over Dortmund. But old frailties have kept returning, an avalanche of them at the weekend.

Against Leipzig, Bayern went into half-time 1-0 up. Tuchel duly rehearsed his warnings about the opposition threat on the counterattack. Just after the hour, Bayern had a corner. Leipzig cleared, countered and Konrad Laimer, leading the break from within his own half, finished from the edge of the Bayern box. Bayern then conceded two penalties. A number of fans drifted away well before the final whistle as the destiny of the Bundesliga slid out of the champions' own hands.

Tuchel was livid, and, with that knack he has of turning lucid in his anger, rounded on his players. The efforts to halt Laimer's run had been limp, absent-minded. "You have to adapt," he told a post-match interviewer. "If you're crossing the street in New York, you walk differently than crossing the road in Bogenhausen! If you cross without looking, you'll get run over." A gloss here: Bogenhausen is an elegant, and evidently pedestrian-friendly, area favoured by Munich's wealthy.

On the map of Tuchel's time as Bayern head coach, there have been some Bogenhausen ambles — Bayern 6, Schalke 0, only nine days ago — but too many Brooklyn jaywalks, the hit-and-runs sudden and painful. Against Leipzig, Laimer's counterattack and the spot kicks from Christopher Nkunku and Dominik Szoboszlai were crammed into 22 second-half minutes. Bayern's Champions League quarter-final against Manchester City was put out of reach in six second-half minutes of the first leg, a 1-0 deficit stretched to 3-0. Granted, City can do that to anybody, but when mid-table Mainz rattle in three in 14 minutes to erase a 1-0 Bayern lead, a collapse that allowed Dortmund their previous leapfrog to the top the table a month ago, the issue looks systemic. "It's not a coincidence when it's happening to us so often," sighed Joshua Kimmich, the Bayern midfielder.

It is also an affront to the Bayern trademark. Kimmich, in his ninth year at the club, has never known what it is to be a Bayern player and not be aboard a juggernaut of hard-edged champions. Thomas Müller has not known a trophyless campaign since 2011-12 and, while Tuchel can scarcely be scorned as the sole inadequate firefighter in this, the latest stop on his tour of trigger-happy employers, he is not gilding his reputation. Before Paris Saint-Germain made him one of the four different head coaches to be fired in the space of as many years, he had taken them to a Champions League final, virgin territory for PSG. When Chelsea made him one of the four different men to have managed them since January 2021, he led them swiftly to a European Cup. In the space of a dozen games at Bayern, he may oversee elimination from the German cup — knocked out by Freiburg — the Champions League and a dethroning as domestic title-holders.

Under Nagelsmann, Bayern claimed 52 points from their first 25 league games this season. They were second in the table when his five-year contract was terminated. Under Tuchel, Bayern have a hardly distinguishable 16 points from eight Bundesliga contests. He sounds ready to apportion blame. "If everything had been fine, they wouldn't have had to change the coach," Tuchel said after Saturday's defeat, a loss he saw not as a Leipzig masterclass but Bayern's own mess. "Leipzig were okay, but — apologies — only okay. We lost because of what we did. And I don't like losing because a match slips through your fingers."

Should the title race, led by Bayern for 22 of the 33 matchdays, slip away, blame will be spread, fingers pointed at the chief executive Oliver Kahn and the sports director Hasan Salihamidzic. There will be wistful longing for Robert Lewandowski — 10 Bundesliga titles, 312 Bundesliga goals — who left last summer for Barcelona and regret about how misjudged Sadio Mané — seven Bundesliga goals — seems as Lewandowski's replacement. There will be extensive navel-gazing about leadership and responsibility in a season captain Manuel Neuer largely missed after breaking his leg skiing.

But let nobody tell Dortmund, should they prevail, this is a title Bayern gifted by default. If Lewandowski left a gap in Bavaria, how about the hole left by Erling Haaland — 62 Bundesliga goals in 67 matches — in the Ruhr? Under a young, Dortmund-developed coach, Edin Terzic, a squad orphaned of its Manchester City-bound phenomenon found new ways of playing and adjusted again when they learnt Haaland's designated replacement, Sébastien Haller, had been diagnosed with testicular cancer.

Happily for Haller, he responded to treatment and, since January, has shared in a run of 18 league matches in which the sole defeat was at Bayern. Very happily indeed for Haller, he took his tally for his shortened campaign to nine with two goals last night — the first a neat, angled shot to break a stubborn Augsburg.

His second strike felt like the goal that points Dortmund to the title.

## FUNNY OLD GAME

Comedian George Lewis reflects on the week's action



With so many matches per season, it must be hard for managers to keep motivating their teams. Some, like Sir Alex Ferguson, would pick themes, like talking about the tough jobs his players' grandparents used to do to instil a bit of pride. Some, such as Mikel Arteta, use more prop-based material.

He became a bit of a figure of fun when the *All or Nothing* documentary about Arsenal aired because it showed him using some bizarre team-talk tactics like getting his side to gather around a lightbulb.

But who was laughing when Arsenal were top of the league? Well, everyone, because it was still funny. He had more respect, though, and I bet there were a few managers who started staring at the lamps around their houses thinking, "Maybe there's something in it."

But unfortunately for Mikel, success dictates whether the public see you as a genius or David Brent. And his latest techniques have correlated with a poor run of form, so have landed him very firmly in the second category.

It has also emerged that Arteta tried to boost morale by bringing a dog called "Win" to training. A few questions arise. Did he buy a dog and change its name? Or did he buy it as a puppy and wait years to release his surefire motivational weapon? Or, did he find a dog called Win? It must be a very rare name, so to track one down that is also capable of hanging around a match without bursting the ball must've taken up a lot of time. Is that what Arteta was doing while Pep Guardiola was studying tactics?

And it didn't work, so what happens to the dog? Do they give it away? Or does he change its name to something more achievable? ("Here, Securechampionsleaguespot!")

We also need to talk about the olive tree he started taking to team meetings. He said the tree is like Arsenal and "we have to look after the roots every day to make sure they don't get poisoned". Poison? Is he running a football club or MI5? Maybe I missed the metaphor. Maybe the word "poison" means the doubt that creeps in. The players must have missed the metaphor too.

But who can blame them? With so many different motivational tools it gets confusing. Imagine being Martin Odegaard. You receive the ball and try to remember what Arteta said about the tree. It needs light… Or is that the bulb? No, wait, that needs electricity, which is… team-work? Before you know it, you've passed the ball to the wrong player. Your manager starts shouting, "Win it back," a dog barks because it heard its name, Nottingham Forest score and you've lost the title.

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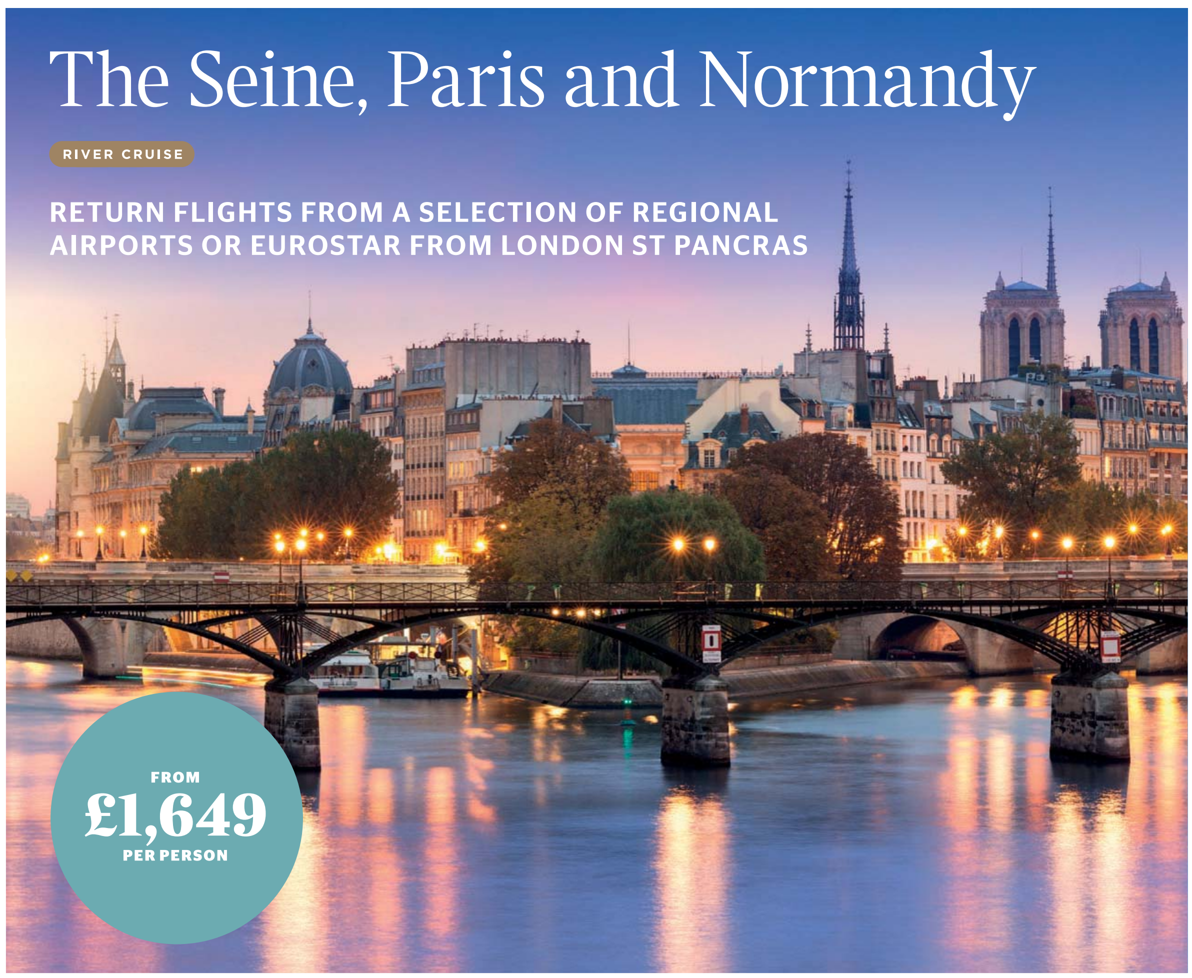
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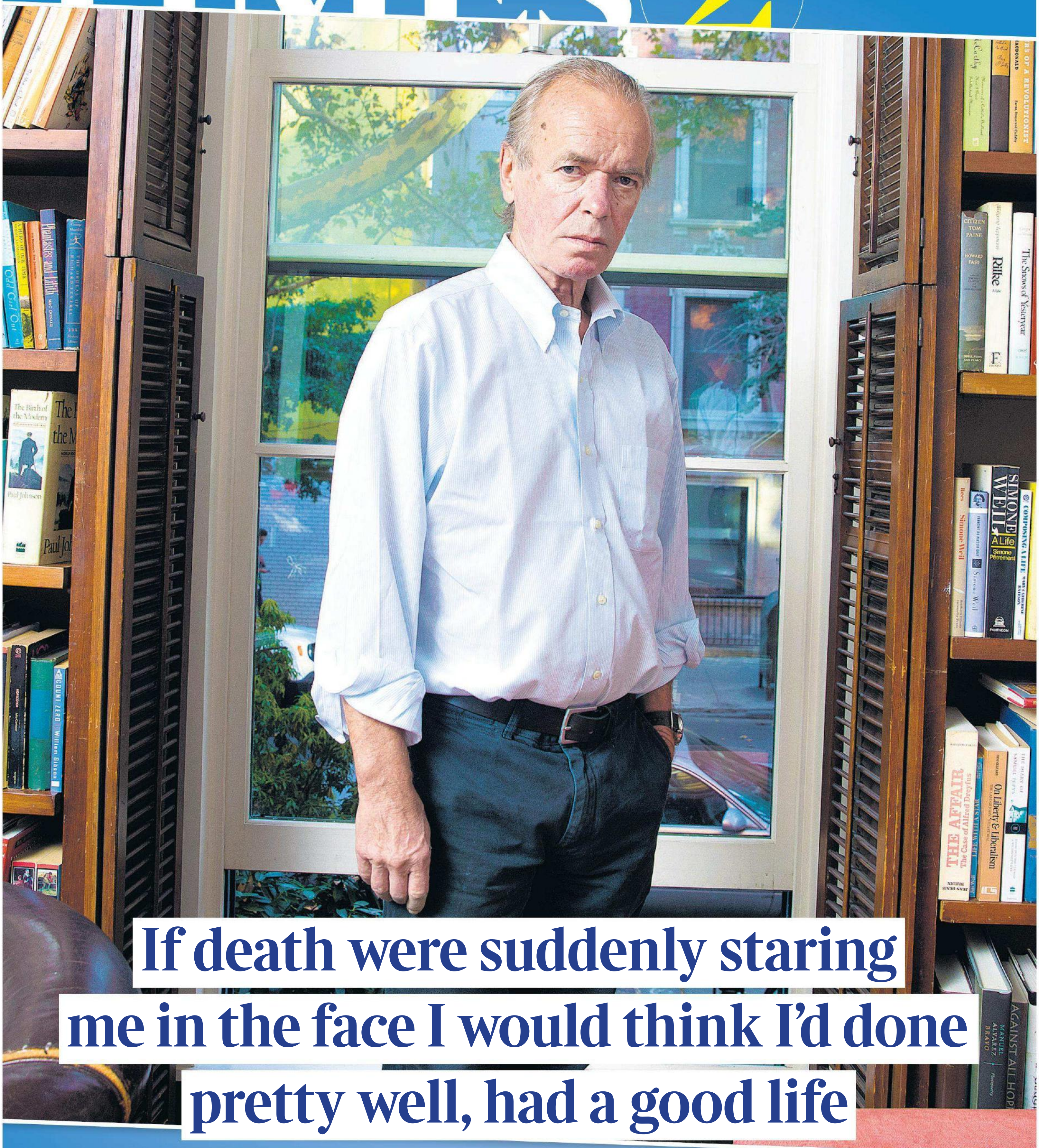
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TIMES2

May 22 | **2023**




# If death were suddenly staring me in the face I would think I'd done pretty well, had a good life

**An audience with Martin Amis, by Andrew Billen**

# Holly, Phil and what I've learnt about guileless, smiley people on the TV

## Polly Vernon



In the loud, rancorous furore which marked the end of Phillip Schofield's tenure at *This Morning*, the bitter unravelling of another primetime TV proposition has gone largely unnoticed. At the end of last week, Channel 4 announced it would no longer be working with Dick Strawbridge and Angel Adoree, the smiley, rosy-cheeked couple whose renovations of a derelict property in France provided the basis for the reality TV show *Escape to the Chateau.*

The show ran for nine series and six years and — not unlike *This Morning* — relied heavily on viewers believing in the abject loveliness of Dick and Angel. Dick, 63, an engineer and former lieutenant colonel in the British Army, hummed, moved walls with less fuss than it takes most of us to straighten a rug, cooked; Angel, 45, sourced vintage fabrics with which to make everything unfeasibly beautiful, wore kimonos, had the demeanour of a "hugger". Any questions viewers had re the finances of the operation (didn't add up, IMO. Just didn't), any spite harboured re the dreamy bliss of their existence as compared with our own, more minging, ones, was mitigated by how nice Dick and Angel seemed.

Bad news then, when it turned out they weren't, not at all. That they were in fact "spiky", "volatile" and "a nightmare to work with" according to sources. That, having already parted company with their first production company, Spark Media, following an alleged feud, their most recent production company, Two Rivers, said it could no longer work with the couple — which led to Channel 4 pulling the plug on the whole shebang following an independent inquiry. The findings of that inquiry aren't yet public, though I for one would watch the dramatisation of that spicy little number: oh yes, I would!

Two long running TV institutions, both rocked by revelations their presenters are perhaps a bit awful underneath it all: what are we to learn? Oh, it's obvious, really; it shouldn't take a celebrity interviewer with 20-plus years experience to explain, but I'm here, so I shall. It's like this: the nicer an individual's telly persona — the more invested they are in being thought adorable by the maximum amount of people, the more guileless their expressions, the readier their smile, the more practised their public displays of compassion, the softer their voices . . . the likelier it is you're dealing with a wrong 'un.

I'm not sure exactly when I worked it out. Three, four years into my career maybe, when the sunny-seeming comedian/interviewer whom everyone thought *wonderful*, having turned up very late for our interview and grown increasingly spiky, responded to a pretty straightforward question: "For f***'s sake: what even *are* you?" A year on, perhaps, when I overheard the affable, of-the-people primetime star refer to non-famous people as "muggles" to an underling (because, you see, famous people are magic)? Don't know. Call it a gentle acquiring of the knowledge that, if the world considers a person enchanting, that's because that person has worked very hard indeed to make it think so — which, by definition, means they aren't.

Come on: no one is. No one is Dick-and-Angel-Before-the-Fall lovely. We are, all of us, complicated and compromised, with regrettable internet search histories. I estimate there's at least one person in all our pasts who could cause us a spot of reputational bother if they tried. And that's just muggles. If you're magic, sorry, *famous* . . . it's further complicated by the roiling, ruthless ambition that drives you on and up — without which, no one ever got famous in the first place. If you're a primetime TV show, whose public-facing MO is nowt but lovely, *lovely*, unthreatening sweetness with zero hint of roiling and ruthless . . . the chasm between who you actually are, and who you want everyone to think you are, is sort of untenably vast. It shouldn't be surprising if one of them trips and falls down into it, every once in a while.



## The short shelf-life of vegan food

**Has the vegan food bubble burst? Could have. The market seems to have stalled at least temporarily, inspiring a series of food manufacturers to withdraw plant-based products from sale, Nestlé's Garden Gourmet range among them. Stats suggest "Veganuary", ie vegan January, didn't really fly this year. A combination of plant-food alternatives being incredibly expensive and too much stuff hitting the shelves simultaneously, is thought to be behind the lull. As opposed to it all just being a bit irritating and self-conscious, which was my prime objection. Oh, I gave plant-based a whirl once, as everyone else seemed to, and I generally think it's important not to slag something off until you have at least fleeting first-hand experience of it. So I went to a plant-based pop-up restaurant. I found it deeply discombobulating; I had no parameters by which to navigate anything I was consuming. As my dinner date said: "At least with chicken goujons, you know what you're up against".**

*Kevin Maher is away*

## Why I do not have a scary dog

**As the owner of a small, impossibly sweet labradoodle, I'm on the front line of the whole demon-dog American bully XL. I've certainly seen far more of them — this big, muscular, recent import — in the two years since I got Rita. I've met some lovely ones and I've met some with, let's say, "owners with a questionable agenda". I did also once have a conversation with a young man, who said, of my dog: "she's lovely, but why didn't you want a scary-looking dog?" Which made me realise those dogs are not necessarily just about posturing, they're also about feeling less vulnerable. I inhabit a realm where I do not need a dog to imbue doubt in the minds of those who might do me harm. I have a dog who looks like a teddy bear, because that's how little I have to fear in the world.**

# Read Spare? No! Meghan's life is more interesting

**With her daughter Flora Fraser, the historian (and widow of Harold Pinter) Lady Antonia Fraser, discusses her life at 90. By Julia Llewellyn Smith**

A Union Jack is draped across the front door of Lady Antonia Fraser's home in Holland Park, west London, put out for the coronation, which she watched on television with various members of her dynasty — there are six children, 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"I greatly enjoyed it," she says. "My heroine was Penny Mordaunt. Someone said, 'Do you want her to be queen?' I said, 'No, because she might be rather a handful for the queen, marching in with her sword.' "

At 90, it's the second coronation Lady Antonia remembers. In 1953 she was a student at Oxford. "My father [Frank, 7th Earl of Longford, the prison reformer and — notoriously — friend of Myra Hindley] was in the House of Lords and so he went to the abbey in a filthy mantle. Afterwards it hung around the house for so long."

"It went in the dressing-up box at my grandparents' house. It was red, ermine, very moth-eaten by the 1960s," chimes in her second daughter, Flora Fraser, 64. "You'd play a bit of ping-pong and then you'd dress up as a king or queen."

"I got a ticket for a structure outside Parliament Yard, looking down the embankment," Lady Antonia continues. "I saw the Queen looking really divine with a shining, white, luminous complexion. I gave the famous pledge to myself: 'I'm going to be a monarchist all my life and then I'm going to make a lot of money writing about kings and queens.'" She chuckles. "Or that's the story I like to tell. It sounds good."

Certainly, so it came to pass for Lady Antonia, who has written… "Ten, twenty books?" Flora ventures. "Thirty," her mother says. Subjects have included Oliver Cromwell, Marie Antoinette (the director Sofia Coppola optioned the book for her 2016 biopic) and the wives of Henry VIII. Her latest, *Lady Caroline Lamb: A Free Spirit*, about the wife of Lord Melbourne and mistress of Lord Byron (she allegedly called him "mad, bad and dangerous to know") has just been published.

As the coronation anecdote attests, Lady Antonia is also a witness to huge chunks of contemporary history. King Charles (he told her how much he was enjoying the biography of the Duke of Wellington written by her historian mother, Elizabeth Longford), Graham Greene (a friend of her parents, who she's rereading), the Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega and her second husband, Harold Pinter, are just some of the people she reminisces about over the course of our conversation.

Pinter, who died 15 years ago, was a close reader of her drafts. "Harold did it brilliantly, like everything he did. He'd read something — noting he knew no history, which was an advantage — then he'd make some point about Robespierre, I'd say, 'Look, darling, I'll be back,' and I'd rush

> **The royal family in the 18th century were more extreme**

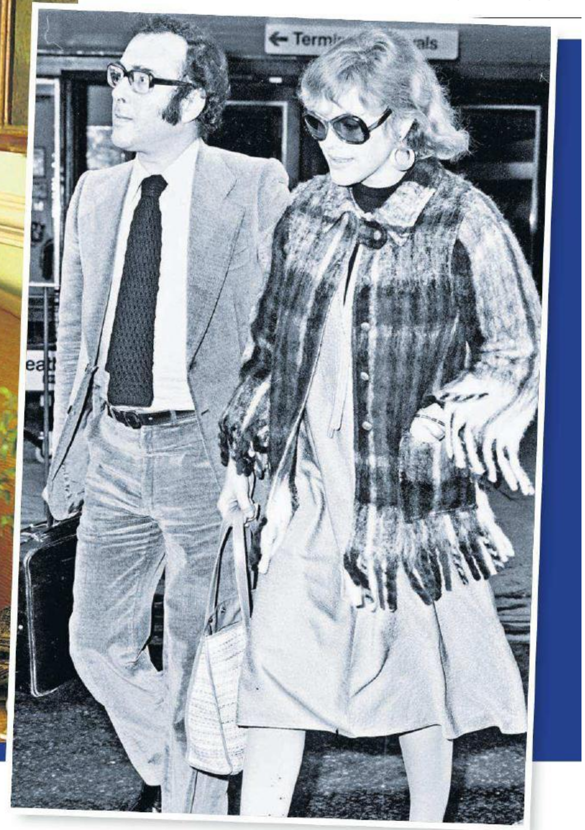
upstairs. It's one of the things I miss most about Harold, coming down at lunch and saying [to him], 'Read it!' It was lovely."

We're in her living room in one of the most desirable squares in London, a colourful monument to that tiny subsection: the intellectual upper class. There's elderly furniture, an ottoman covered with books, paintings and vases of flowers wherever there's space and dozens of family photographs, plus one of the actor Julian Sands — who has been missing for nearly four months after going hiking in California. "Awful, I saw him in December, poor Evgenia," she says, referring to his wife.

Lady Antonia is a little frail. The stairlift leading to the front door is a reminder that earlier this year she

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**Flora Fraser and Lady Antonia Fraser in 2003. Right: Lady Antonia with Harold Pinter in 1977**

missed a concert in her honour after a fall. But — blonde hair immaculate, blue eyeshadow on her lids — she's still charismatic: warm and sharp, in a flowery jacket embellished with a huge brooch, as two playful cats jump on and off her knee.

At noon on the dot, she calls her housekeeper and instructs her it's time for wine. Glasses of white in hand, we discuss how she was the first household-name historian, forever popping up on telly and radio. "In a white miniskirt and a blonde wig," Lady Antonia says archly. It didn't hurt sales. "No."

Biography runs down the Fraser line. Her mother wrote several — including a much-acclaimed book on Queen Victoria. "My mother started writing at nearly 60," Lady Antonia says (she, in contrast, was 37 when her first, smash-hit biography, *Mary Queen of Scots*, was published). "But it was a coincidence Mummy and I had the same profession. History to me was a private thing, whereas Mummy and Daddy had this wonderful political life — which they grumbled about all the time, but they never stopped going and making speeches." (Lord Longford held several positions in Labour cabinets; Lady Longford tried several times unsuccessfully to be elected as a Labour MP.)

Twenty years ago, in her grandmother's honour, Flora (who has produced six biographies — her latest, *Pretty Young Rebel*, being the life of Bonnie Prince Charlie's saviour, Flora Macdonald) established the Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography, which has been won by Andrew Roberts, Ben Macintyre, Tristram Hunt and the like.

"The UK has a feel for historical biography that is unlike anywhere else in Europe. This art is practised by really fine writers who aim at new scholarship but also have a strong narrative drive that's very enjoyable for the general reader — it's the best of British," Flora says.

The shortlist for this year's prize, announced last week, includes Leanda de Lisle's biography of Henrietta Maria and Ramachandra Guha's *Rebels Against the Raj: Western Fighters for India's Freedom*. To mark the anniversary there'll also be a citation for either a winner or shortlistee from the past two decades whose work most identifies with the prize.

"Rather fun," Flora says, beaming. These will include Frances Wilson, who wrote a biography of Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the White Star Line, which owned the Titanic. "Fascinating book," Lady Antonia says. She also loved Philip Ziegler's life of Edward Heath.

It's an autobiography, but has either woman read Prince Harry's *Spare*? "No!" both exclaim. "If it was here I would certainly look at it, but I'm much more interested in Meghan's memoir," Lady Antonia says. "I think she's led a much more interesting life. I mean the whole thing about her father and my favourite character — Doria. I like grannies. There has to be someone in the cast that you like."

Naturally the Frasers have historical perspective on present shenanigans. "The royal family in the 18th century's behaviour was so much more extreme," says Flora, who specialises in that period. "This is nothing! Then it was absolutely classic that the monarch and the heir did not speak to each other. George I didn't speak to George II; George II didn't speak to his heir — who so hated his father he arranged for his wife, while in labour, to be tossed into a carriage and taken to another part of London so she wouldn't give birth in anything that could be construed as his palace. Then he died, so the grandson inherited — George III. He didn't speak to George IV, who, when his father was — let's call it ill — imitated signs of his madness. It just goes on and on.

"These later Hanoverians are doing a much better job: the fact the King and his heir not only speak to each other but seem to get on rather well … this is harmony! Although it's sad there's disharmony, it doesn't affect the succession — the person causing it is rather low down."

No such strife seems to exist in the Fraser dynasty. Lady Antonia has always been frank about the difficulties of combining writing with bringing up six children (all with her first husband, the Conservative MP Sir Hugh Fraser, whom she divorced in 1977), once describing it as "ratty solipsist behaviour", adding that her working mother handled her eight children far better. "My wicked children tell the obviously apocryphal story that at 9am I posted a notice on my door saying 'Only come in if you have broken your leg'."

"I remember 'Don't come in if you want to get your pocket money'," Flora says. "Then I remember coming in to get it at 12.59pm sharp one Friday and, instead of the usual tuppence ha'penny, my mother gave me a pound note and said, 'Keep the change. *Mary Queen of Scots* is a bestseller.'"

It's challenging to follow one's parent's profession. Lady Longford used to read her daughter's manuscripts. "My mother was a bossy headmistress, she complained endlessly about my grammar until I thought of saying, 'Well, who taught me my grammar?'" Lady Antonia says. "She did perfect research, you could never catch her out and her books were always frightfully enjoyable."

Flora's "teenage rebellion" was to say she wouldn't be a writer but a lawyer. "And then, while I was at Oxford, I married a lawyer [Robert Powell-Jones, whom she divorced, going on to marry Peter Soros — nephew of the financier George — from whom she has also split] and I thought, 'I don't want to trail behind.' Very kindly some publishers took a punt on me being third-generation, but I was well aware I had one shot."

"You did terribly well, Flora," her mother says. "It comes out in the end."

Lady Caroline Lamb may be Lady Antonia's last biography. "I'm sure I won't write another, I've not got a subject lurking. But I love writing. What with one thing and another I haven't written for a while, but the other day I was asked to write a tiny thing about my favourite book in the Bible and I felt wonderful, I was like a golfer — I'd done it! When I go out of the house at lunchtime, having written 20 pages, I feel a happiness I don't feel any other way. I can't imagine doing another book with references and bibliography, but there are many other kinds of books. But that's me speaking now."

Wait six months and see? "Yes. But also it depends how this book goes."

Does she still worry about reviews and sales? "Are you crazy?" she exclaims, then: "Yes and no. My inner fibre, I'm nervous. My outer I can put on a better front. But I don't think you ever get over [bad reviews], because it's something you've created."

Most of the reviews have been fabulous; the meaner ones complained about a "lack of intellectual rigour" and fondness for "popular" history. I say slightly glamorous women will always be a target.

"Interesting," Lady Antonia says. "I don't like being slightly glamorous. How about glamorous?"

**The Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography celebrates its 20th anniversary in June; this year's winner will be announced on June 12, elhb.uk**



**Lady Antonia after her son Orlando's birth in 1967, with her other children, Damian, Rebecca, Flora, Benjamin and Natasha**

times2

# ‘I’d want more of life, but were it to end tomorrow I’d think fair enough’

## Martin Amis was an idol to a generation of young men. Andrew Billen recounts his encounters with the late author, but asks if his hero-worship was misplaced




For 25 years up to the end of the last century, an interview with Martin Amis was a summit that most feature writers wanted to climb. For acidic female journalists the challenge was to defeat him. Rarely would they forbear to mention that, as summits went, the 5ft 6in Amis was not a very high one. Yet he was notoriously attractive to women and had bedded the best of them. Why were these women profilers so hostile?

Because, they said, of his novels’ misogyny, evident they argued from his very first, *The Rachel Papers*, which was about a young Amis doppelganger’s hideous treatment of his first “love”, Rachel, who was fired in the end for two crimes: she menstruated and she excreted. Five years later, in *Success* he extended the charge sheet against women by enumerating their “grim femininia”: “A dollop of make-up on the pillowslips, the school of pubic hairs on the sheets, that patch of hell somewhere further down.” In *London Fields* in 1989 he invented the concept of the “murderee”, a role for which only apparently women might be considered. (Later we learnt that his cousin, Lucy Partington, had been murdered by Fred West in 1973, which was an explanation of sorts.)

So when Amis and I finally met for an interview in 1998, and I had my shot at the summit, I asked him about the problem women had with his books. “I don’t understand it,” he said, “but there clearly is one.”

For a male journalist the only problem was to rein in the sycophancy. *The Rachel Papers* was published in 1973, when I was 15. It was not only the fizziest prose I had read. It saw the worst in me: snobbery, intellectual snobbery, the arrogance of youth and the deep well of adolescent male sexism. So when I heard on Saturday night of his death, I felt as others will when Bob Dylan dies: that my youth had died too. For male Eng Lit graduates of the late Seventies, he was the writer who busted a frontier, our Wordsworth, our Aldous Huxley, perhaps our Kingsley Amis (the other way further to cut Martin to size was to suggest he was the product of nepotism; a New Statesman competition for unlikely memoir titles was won by “Martin Amis: My Struggle”).

> “Why did women have a problem with him? ‘I don’t understand it but there clearly is one’

An interview with Amis could never fail, for he spoke as well as he wrote. On the *South Bank Show* in 1989 he explained he had adopted his voice of nihilist satire because “rock-bottom realism” was no longer adequate to the times. “The world,” he said, “had been to too many parties. It had had its handbag stolen too many times.” Getting fab quotes from Amis was never really going to be a problem.

But there was good reason to fear writing up an interview with him. He was phenomenally clever, but the focus of his cleverness was words. His 2001 collection of essays and reviews, *The War Against Cliché* was as forbidding as it was inspiring. One muffed preposition or dangling participle would surely consign you to intellectual oblivion in the mind of the one reader who really mattered.

So here comes my cliché, the interviewer’s cliché: the one long sneer on two short legs I expected to meet in his house near Regent’s Park, where he was now living with his second wife, Isabel Fonsesca, was polite and pleasant. After we had done, he suggested that as it was 6pm we had earned a drink. Over a glass of white wine we shared our irritations with Microsoft Word.

I should have seen the niceness coming. In 1983 he had appeared on Granta’s first list of best young British novelists. Ten years on, my then newspaper told me to ring as many of the 20 as I could to ask where they were now. Since Amis was at the top of his game, this seemed presumptuous, but we had a decent conversation in which he said that of the next generation of writers he particularly admired Will Self, which was generous, given back then Self read like an Amis impersonator.

Funnily enough, a tolerance of cold-callers was shared by his father, whom I would ring as a young Times diarist fearful of being bawled out by the rudest gentleman of letters in Britain and was always greeted by someone who sounded rather happy to have an interruption from writing. The same year, 1993, I interviewed Philip Amis, a collage artist and by one year Martin’s older brother. “Having a brother that soon after you means you are ousted straight away,” he said. “You develop a huge chip on your shoulder about being second banana, but all that is all gone now. We are good friends.”

Five years later I did notice, however, that Philip’s little brother had a funny way of talking about women. He explained how Isabel always packed his cases. “They can’t bear you going off with a disgusting ten-gallon bag with a piece of shirt hanging out on top of it, so they pack beautifully for you.” They? His wives? “Even girlfriends. If you’re teetering on the brink of being a total slob, you get taken in hand.” And he told me how Kingsley had told him and Philip that sex was better with someone you loved, so after that they “were dying to fall in love for the sex, the better sex”.

Amis was 49 when we chatted. After 40, he had famously said you have no choice but to think about death — he called it “the information” — in front of the shaving mirror. Yet now he said: “If death were suddenly staring me in the face I would think I’d done pretty well, had a good life. I’d want more if it, but were it to end tomorrow I would still think fair enough.”

The tragedy is not then that Amis lived only for another 25 years. It is that his literary powers predeceased him. When was it that I stopped looking forward to the next Amis? *Yellow Dog* in 2003, perhaps, when the brilliantly disdainful observer of the contemporary appeared to confuse texts with emails, and his plots turned to dense mush. *Inside Story*, his autobiographical novel of 2020, was at times fascinating but it was not as well written as his memoir *Experience* 20 years earlier. Actually, it was full of clichés: “unsung hero”, “force of nature”, “late lamented” and so on.

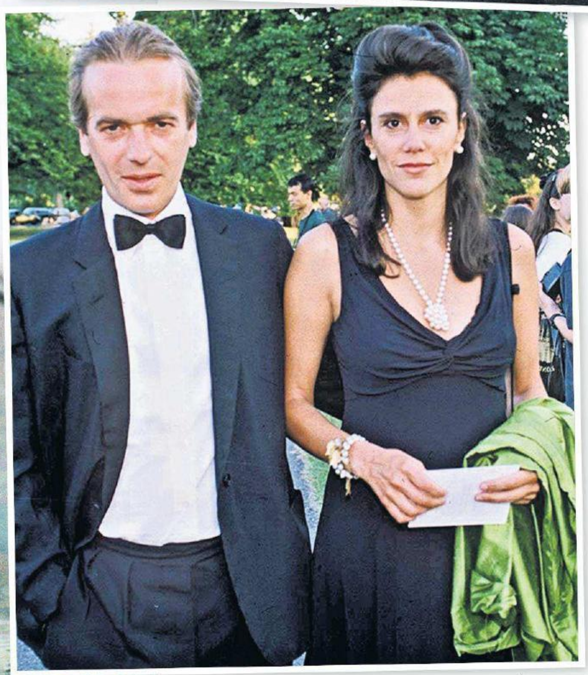
Last year in a National Trust second-hand bookshop I picked up an Amis I had not read. It was 2010’s *The Pregnant Widow*, about a group of twentysomethings on holiday in posh Italy. Its early pages took me back to the heady onanism of my adolescence, but the plot failed to progress. By page 100, where I gave up, Amis was still going on about some girl’s amazing breasts. It turned out the women who called him misogynistic were right and I, who thought he was satirising misogyny, was wrong.

So I mourn for my ex-hero, but I am glad I never interviewed him again. Just as I had been the first time, I would have been nervous, but mostly this time because I would have had to admit a hard truth: I could no longer read him.

ULF ANDERSEN/GETTY IMAGES; JEREMY YOUNG; RICHARD YOUNG/REX FEATURES







Left: Martin Amis in 1987. Top: Amis with Nigella Lawson in 1990. Above: with his second wife, Isabel Fonseca

# I saw him in 2018 — he looked frail

Will Pavia

The first time I met Martin Amis, his house in Brooklyn had been destroyed by fire and he was lodging at his mother-in-law's, a lovely place in Greenwich Village. He made me a cup of tea and sat on a sofa, his head against a cushion, smoking an e-cigarette with a blue light winking at the end of it.

I wasn't an expert on Amis beyond having read a few of his books and having the vague idea that quite a lot of people in Britain didn't like him. Amis had this idea too. He was seen as "sneering, superior," he said. It was less pronounced in America, he said, where his father Kingsley was less well known. But in Britain, "I'm sort of Prince Charles," he said — this was in the autumn of 2017. The view was that "through no merit of my own, I'm just in this dramatically promoted position."

He'd just come across a review of his latest book in a British newspaper and saw in it "this sort of incredible predisposition to dislike, to make me sound smirky and elitist," he said. "And I thought, God, it's still there, and absolutely undiminished." He took a drag on his e-cigarette. "It was quite lowering for an hour or two," he said.

He spoke in a rumbly baritone and he could sound professorial, winkling out the meaning of small events and relating them to much grander shifts in society. I'd expected this too. But I wasn't prepared for how funny he was. I remember trying to ask a follow-up question and struggling to get it out, because I was almost weeping.

Once, he quoted an Auden poem about the difference between novelists and poets, that makes poets sound far more glamorous. Poets don't make as much money though, I said.

"Poets are figures of deprivation, with one or two exceptions," he replied. "The one thing poets do get, they do get girls. My theory is that they get girls because they don't get anything else and girls sense this and in their generous way, make it up to them a bit. The most hideous poets, and not successful in any way, have women coming in and out all day long, with their dinners and their pale ales and doing their laundry."

He started to talk, mournfully, about Philip Larkin, and how the poet had followed Yeats's "ridiculous dichotomy" that you have to choose between seeking perfection in life or in art. Larkin "really took it to an extreme," he said. He had "five girls, all of them horrors, basically." He sighed. "He could have got some wonderful girls."

Amis did not believe in depriving himself. After his great friend Christopher Hitchens died in late 2011 of oesophageal cancer, "I had an unexpected turn of feeling," he said. "It sounds nauseatingly sentimental, [but] it was something to do with his love of life, which was so immense. I thought it was my responsibility to continue that in his absence."

He enjoyed being in his sixties. "When you are 45 you suddenly realise that you are going to die," he said. "You thought you were the exception. It takes about 15 years to get over that . . . On your sixtieth birthday, you think: 'Phew'. Immediately followed by the thought: 'But this cannot turn out well.'"

He mused about whether he would rather die in Britain. "I mean, I think I might quite like to die there," he said. "I'm still not sure if I can afford to die in America. It's incredibly expensive. Hundreds of thousands of dollars."

I only saw him one other time, in late 2018 at a hotel bar that was at the bottom of a gleaming glass tower in Brooklyn. Amis had asked the firefighters how to avoid any further run-ins with fires and their advice was to move to a new building, so here they were. We perched on stools beside a wall mostly covered with a colossal television screen, showing an American football game. He looked frail. He was about to turn 70 and he sounded horrified by the thought of it.

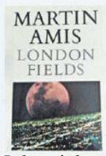
"It's not just that you're slower," he said. "You're slower and much more jerky and violent. I have far more spillages and f***-ups just in daily life, at home, by over-reacting. If you see something wobbling your hand shoots out and knocks over about fifteen things."

I asked if he had considered golf. I found the idea funny, but apparently his wife had suggested it. "I'm more and more averse to any kind of exertion," he said. Walking to his grocery store, "when I come around the corner and I look up the street, [I think] that's a long way."

But I like to think of one of the many times in my first meeting with him that he made me laugh. We were talking about a writer who died of cancer. "I don't know what's wrong with me, but I love the joke in a film called *Movie Movie*," he said. He then recited it, sucking on his e-cigarette, his voice deep and rich, his timing perfect. "An impresario called Spats goes to his doctor in New York and the doctor . . . says: 'Hate to tell you Spats, but you've only got a month to live.' Spats goes out onto the balcony and looks over Central Park and says: 'Just 31 days.' And the doctor says: 'This is February, Spats.'"

## 4 best books

**Money (1984)**
This is Amis's masterpiece: a noisy savage comedy full of high colour and low manners, fizzing with slang and wordplay. It also introduced us to the memorably monstrous John Self, "a semi-literate alcoholic" ad man who is flitting between London and the US, trying to make a movie. This "gurgling wizard of calorific excess" is a yobbish symbol for the worst of 1980s money worship.




**London Fields (1989)**
"This is the story of a murder. It hasn't happened yet. But it will". In this black comedy, we follow "murderee" Nicola Six and her efforts to be killed. This is where the gloriously grotesque and uncouth darts player Keith Talent comes in. Chuck in Marmaduke, a psychopathic toddler, and you're in for a ride.

**Experience (2000)**
His memoir is stuffed with wit, literary gossip, opinions about novels and dentistry. It also has a moving account of his father Kingsley's death. We meet his literary idols — Bellow, Larkin — but also the ghostly memory of his cousin, Lucy Partington, a victim of Fred West.




**The Rachel Papers (1973)**
In this provocative debut, ever-so-clever, ever-so obnoxious Charles Highway tells us about his "love" affair with Rachel. The novel is funny, wallowing in adolescent concerns such as skid marks and periods. By showing us what the teenage male mind really thinks, it now feels subversive. Published when Amis was 24 years old, it won the Somerset Maugham prize in 1974, the only major prize he ever won for his novels.
**Robbie Millen**

# The real genius is in the essays

James Marriott

I bought my copy of Martin Amis's collected essays and reviews, *The War Against Cliché*, in a bookshop on the Charing Cross Road shortly after I moved to London. It was 2014 and I was 22. I started reading it the same day. By the time I had spent half an hour with the book I realised that my life had changed for ever. Why had nobody told me writing could be this good: so funny, so authoritative, so elegant.

New readers should visit the comic set pieces first. There's a scathing review of Michael Crichton's thriller *The Lost World*: "animals — especially, if not exclusively, velociraptors — are what he is good at. People are what he is bad at. People, and prose." Then the demolition of Thomas Harris's novel *Hannibal* in which the author is denounced as a "serial murderer of English sentences" and his book as "a necropolis of prose".

Elsewhere, Amis imagines the genial and prolific novelist John Updike as, "a psychotic Santa of volubility, emerging from one or another of his studies (he is said to have four of them) with his morning sackful of reviews, speeches, reminiscences, think pieces, forewords, prefaces, introductions, stories, playlets and poems . . . The telephone starts ringing. A science magazine wants something pithy on the philosophy of subatomic thermodynamics; a fashion magazine wants 10,000 words on his favourite colour. No problem — but can they hang on? Mr Updike has to go upstairs again and blurt out a novel."

*The War Against Cliché* is filled with almost frighteningly final literary pronouncements. I recall a line from his novel *The Information*: "He was very good at book reviewing. When he reviewed a book, it stayed reviewed."

I quickly submitted, learning to admire VS Pritchett, to deplore the later novels of Iris Murdoch and to endorse Vladimir Nabokov and Saul Bellow as the indisputable greats of the last century.

Amis is the strict, rule-giving paternal figure many young men seek. He taught us to write. We were warned against, "not just clichés of the pen, but clichés of the mind and clichés of the heart".

It has become a cliché to say that Amis is unfashionable, but this strikes me as untrue. In the writing of my peers, I spot Amis's tics everywhere: the fondness for surprising adverbs ("tremendously unrelaxed," "fruitfully uneasy", to quote a couple of Amis's own) and for showboating metaphors.

I love Amis's novels, but it was always a qualified love. Whenever I return to them I'm surprised to remember how quickly I tire of the strenuously demotic prose and the try-hard macho posing. All the stuff about pubs and snooker halls can come over rather hysterically overdone; too obviously touched with the literary man's insecurity in the real world. Amis the essayist is quite a different figure: patrician, headmasterly, superbly elitist. I wonder if this is the truer Amis.

life

# Ask Professor Tanya Byron

## I think my friend is being coercively controlled and financially abused by her husband

**Q I am worried about a friend who I fear may be suffering from coercive control but possibly not in the usual way.**

**She is a successful businesswoman. Her husband has over the years forced her to pay for everything, including school fees and day-to-day living expenses for the whole family, and kept all he has earned (probably a lot) for himself.**

**She has paid for the rental of weekend homes, where he resides full-time. She says she can't change any of this as she is scared of his temper.**

**Is this coercive control? And what, if anything, can I do to help her?**
*Ava*

A There is no doubt that your friend is a victim of financial, psychological and emotional domestic abuse. All abuse is driven by the dominance, power and control of the abuser, who generates fear so that the victim is too afraid to leave them. Coercive control is defined as a pattern of acts of abuse with the intention to cause fear and harm, including everything from threats to humiliation, intimidation to assault, and has been a criminal offence since 2015.

It is estimated that one in six women in the UK have experienced economic/financial abuse, which is present in 95 per cent of domestic abuse cases. Surviving Economic Abuse (survivingeconomicabuse.org) explains how a financial abuser harms the victim due to the acquisition and control of their economic resources, control over the use of those resources, and maintaining abuse of those resources. Your friend's husband clearly fits this abuser profile.

Your friend is an independently wealthy woman who earns well. She is not destitute and unable to support herself. However, given that financial abuse involves a perpetrator using or misusing money, which limits and controls their partner's current and future actions and their freedom of choice, she is being abused by her husband. Refusing to contribute anything to the household income and also dictating the management and spend of a competent person's money, both of which he is doing, are also seen as markers of financial abuse.

As you wonder, she is also clearly a victim of coercive control, given her husband's controlling and threatening behaviour. Her fear restricts her freedom as she can't challenge him or set boundaries due to her being unable to "change any of this as she is scared of his temper". The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises the role that financial abuse plays in exerting control over victims, constraining their freedom to leave abusive relationships and the long-term damage it causes. She is trapped by her fear, which is caused by his criminal behaviour.

Victims of domestic abuse (usually women) will often be asked why they don't leave their abuser. This is a naive and extremely unhelpful question that indicates a lack of understanding of the power and control dynamic that exists in such relationships. These self-perpetuating cycles of abuse trap the victims, isolate them and destroy their confidence, often leading to mental health issues that the abuser can further exploit and so maintain coercive control.

Your friend needs support to leave this relationship as the cumulative effects of the years of this abuse have clearly disempowered her, leaving her unable to escape it on her own. Also, after so many years she may not fully recognise that she is a victim of financial abuse, and also may feel such shame about the situation that she remains trapped. She will, like all other victims, fear the consequences of trying to set boundaries or leave her husband — research highlights that a victim is at greatest risk of death or serious injury at the point of leaving and up to two years after.

She may be caught in a commitment trap whereby she believes that marriage means staying together

> "She is trapped by her fear, caused by his criminal behaviour

and/or her children will be badly affected by an acrimonious separation.

Abusers are manipulative and coercive, and this can be played out in a number of ways, including gaslighting their victim by suggesting there is no problem with what they are doing and that the problem is in the victim's head only. They may play the guilt card — telling their victim that they have somehow created the situation for the abuse to happen: it is easy to persuade a disempowered and helpless person to believe that they are the problem. Additionally, they may create false hope by occasionally accepting that their actions need to change, pulling on heartstrings, becoming upset, love-bombing and asking for another chance. Abusers can generate shame in their victim by asking what their friends and peers would think if they were to speak out or leave. All these tactics not only wear the victim down but can also brainwash them into believing the abuser's false and malicious narrative.

To help your friend, you need to be patient and present but not pushy and prescriptive. This will be hard, as all you will want to do is scoop her up and help her to get away from this man. She acknowledges the problem and has been able to tell you about her husband's anger that underpins the coercive control, but she may also love him and see a greater cost if she leaves rather than stays with him. Don't get frustrated with her — remember that after so many years she will be desensitised to the enormity of what is being done to her. She may disagree that she is an abuse victim and merely see herself as a woman with a "difficult" husband with a temper; normalising abuse is one way that victims cope with it. She, like many people, may see victims of abuse only as those who are bruised and battered, even though you obviously don't have to look like a victim to be one.

Source some literature where she could see from objective and reliable sources that she is a victim of financial abuse. If this begins to shift her perception, encourage her to call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. If she wants to look at more information and support online, Women's Aid provides information about how to cover her tracks online if she fears her husband may find what she has been looking at: womensaid.org.uk.

Don't confront your friend's husband yourself: you might create a situation where she defends him. Additionally, the abuser will become enraged and a greater risk to their victim. Help her to create a plan: seeking legal advice, having a hidden packed bag should she need to leave quickly if he becomes threatening and angry, a way to contact you and other trusted friends when she needs you to meet her, collect her or bring her to your house. Given that she has disclosed her fear of his temper, you can also tell her about the Silent Solution system that enables a 999 mobile caller who is too scared to make a noise or speak to press 55 when prompted and then respond to questions and instructions by coughing or tapping the handset.

You are clearly a good friend who can help your friend to understand what she is suffering and how she can be supported to change her circumstances. As well as contacting the charities set up to support women who are abused, eg refuge.org.uk and womensaid.org.uk, I also advise you to download the Bright Sky app (hestia.org/brightsky), which provides a wealth of advice and information for those being abused and also those who are supporting them. At the moment she is a victim, but you can empower her to become a survivor.



**If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron @thetimes.co.uk**

# Why I

## Joshua Patterson's gilded lifestyle on Made in Chelsea hid his mental struggles, he tells Georgina Roberts

Joshua Patterson was 13 when he first thought about killing himself. His parents had just got divorced and he felt he had no one to turn to.

By his early twenties, shortly before he was cast on the reality television show *Made in Chelsea*, he was having suicidal thoughts so often that they seemed normal. "It was something that I would think of so regularly. It was just the daily thing of, like, 'Will it happen, will it not?'" he says.

At 33, Patterson still struggles with anxiety. But, he says, "Every day, I wake up and I think to myself, if I'd have followed through with that and ended my life on that day, look at what I would have missed out on."

In his darkest time Patterson never could have imagined that he would be able to run 76 marathons in 76 days in 76 cities. But that's the mammoth challenge he completed this month when he crossed the finish line at the gates of Buckingham Palace. Running a marathon in each of the 76 UK cities consecutively was a world first, he tells me. He ran hoping to raise £1 million for Samaritans, which could fund 200,000 life-saving phone calls. So far, he has raised more than £300,000 for the mental health charity, which responds to a call for help every ten seconds.

Last week he returned to the palace to attend a charity garden party hosted by the Duchess of Edinburgh. When I arrive at his modern Fulham flat, he is cooking a margherita pizza as a hangover cure for the night out he had afterwards. He has lost a stone and a quarter after burning 5,000 calories a day and is wearing a black jersey emblazoned with the "Run for 1 Million" logo, green cargo trousers and running trainers.

Patterson was born in Norfolk but went to Gordonstoun, the boarding school in Moray, Scotland, attended by the King. He struggled academically there. Mentally, he found it difficult to cope too.

"I remember vividly at school, I was really struggling with crippling anxiety," he says. When he spoke to a local doctor they just handed him a leaflet about anxiety. "I ticked every single box, but there was no 'this is what we can do to improve it'. I literally was just diagnosed as someone with anxiety, and that was it. So I lived with the fact that I had anxiety, but had no idea how to improve it."

He felt ashamed, and says that when he tried to speak to his parents, who owned a property business, about his mental health, they struggled to grasp what was happening to their son. "My dad just didn't understand it. It's

# ran 76 marathons in 76 days

GREY HUTTON FOR THE TIMES; TED LOWNEY





**I was sleeping in until 3pm, 4pm. There was no reason to get up. I was completely lost**

**Joshua Patterson. Top: completing the last of his 76 marathons in London last week**

so alien to that generation," he says of his father, who was born into a working-class family in Northern Ireland. "I didn't really have a great deal of support."

Therapy was a lifeline. He first started seeing a private therapist aged 13, paid for by his parents. "My therapist was just sensational and really got me out of a tricky situation. It's mad when I look back at that person, who I was," he says. He still sees a therapist at least once a month.

He left school with four GCSES and one A-level and became a professional rugby player for Ballymena in Northern Ireland. He fell out of love with the game and his rugby career ended after four years, at which point he fell into a dark place again. "My early twenties were the worst I'd been, for sure. I was sleeping in bed until 3pm, 4pm. There was no reason to get up. I was in such a rut, I'd lost an awful lot of weight, I was completely lost," he says.

In 2015 he was cast in *Made in Chelsea.* The storyline followed the lives of posh twentysomethings in Chelsea and sold an image of young, beautiful people living a charmed life. But in reality, he was in hell.

It was "a difficult time", he says. "It showcased the highs and lows of your life. For me, maybe more the lows than the highs."

In 2017, aged 27, he found out that his *MIC* co-star Binky Felstead, with whom he had an on-off relationship, was pregnant with his child. "My first relationship, to be on television, and then to have a child from it as well, it's pretty intense." He left the show in 2018 to focus on being a father. "That was the easiest decision I ever made, wanting to keep my daughter in as normal and healthy an environment as I possibly could," he says.

He and Felstead separated in 2018, not long after their daughter, India, now five, was born. Felstead has since had two children with her husband, Max Darnton. It's important to Patterson to maintain a good relationship with her for their daughter. "Coming from a broken home, I want to ensure that I rectify all the wrongs that were done in my childhood to me," he says. He looks after India for four days one week and two days the next, and has remained single.

He now co-owns Runna, a running training-plan business, but the show's reputation still haunts him. "When people introduce you on the radio or TV as a *Made in Chelsea* star, people's immediate reaction is 'privileged prick'," he says.

He worries that being best known for appearing on a show about wealthy Londoners means people will feel less inclined to donate to his challenge. "I'm not earning a living for a frickin' quarter of the year, because I care, I want to do this," he says.

The first month of the 76-day challenge was the longest time he had been apart from India. They FaceTimed most days and sent videos, and she came to watch him run two marathons. He named the camper van he slept in "Elsa Mary Poppins" after characters from her two favourite films and — also inspired by Elsa from *Frozen* — she painted his nails blue before his first marathon.

Thinking about her motivated him as he ran through snow and the wettest March that England and Wales had had in 40 years. His van had no heating, so he slept in tracksuit bottoms, a hoodie, T-shirt, beanie and socks. Most nights he would wake up under a soaked duvet because the van was so damp.

Each morning, he got up at 7am and put his legs in compression boots for ten minutes, then walked or cycled to the start line and recited the same group prayer with his team. They would finish running by 3pm and drive straight to the next city. If that city had a leisure centre he could shower, but often he would have to go for several days without washing.

He ran with a damaged tendon on his left foot, a back in spasm and a dodgy achilles. On marathon No 60, he tore his calf. "My leg was just excruciating. It was the first time in the challenge where I started walking."

That day, he sent his camera team ahead and walked the rest of the 26 miles alone. "I was reflecting on a lot of stuff that I've gone through in life, and it just came out, I started bawling my eyes out. I couldn't stop crying. I think I needed a release," he says.

For each marathon, he was joined by between 5 and 100 runners who had seen he was coming to their city on Instagram. He ran shoulder to shoulder with people living with terminal illnesses, parents with buggies and young men who told him about their mental health issues. "That's what's been great about this: men have opened up, and they haven't felt weak or judged for it," he says.

Suicide is the biggest cause of death in men under the age of 50 and around three quarters of deaths from suicides each year are men. Patterson could have been part of that statistic. So he knows how important it is for his male followers to look at him, an athlete who outwardly fits the typical definition of masculinity, and "see somebody who is vulnerable, who can be emotional at times".

**I'm one of the fortunate ones who is still here to tell the tale**

Before this challenge, the largest amount of money he had raised was £28,000, when he ran a marathon in each of the four UK nations in 24 hours in 2021.

This time, more than 300 runners joined him for his final marathon, in Hyde Park, his biggest turnout. When he finally crossed the finish line outside Buckingham Palace, the achievement didn't sink in. "It's really hard to process 76 days in a single moment. I think people were expecting me to tear up, but emotionally you're quite numb," he says.

Since he got home on Saturday, one of his biggest highlights has been playing games with India, singing her "40,000 nursery rhymes" and letting her sleep in his bed. He already has an idea for another challenge, but for now he's focused on making up for lost time with her.

When he looks at everything he has now — a world record and a daughter — how does he feel when he pictures that young, suicidal version of himself?

"I look back and it saddens me that I was at that point. But I feel very grateful that I'm one of the fortunate ones who is still here to tell the tale, and I have got that second chance."

**justgiving.com/page/joshua-patterson-runfor1million**

# artsfirst night

## opera

### Don Giovanni
Glyndebourne
★★☆☆☆

It's entertaining, in a perverse sort of way, to watch today's stage directors tying themselves in knots turning Mozart's operatic portrait of unbridled licentiousness into a politically correct blueprint for how 21st-century blokes should behave. At least Mariame Clément offers a novel twist in her new production, opening Glyndebourne's summer revels. It seems we are to consider the real hero to be Donna Anna's drippy goody-goody boyfriend Don Ottavio.

As presented here (and heroically sung by Oleksiy Palchykov), he is the epitome of a caring, sharing new man — noble, selfless, loyal and, I would guess, deeply committed to environmental sustainability. Clément reorientates the opera so thoroughly around this paragon that, in the opening scene, he gets more of a snog with Venera Gimadieva's powerfully sung Anna than Giovanni does — even though it's Giovanni who is supposed to be seducing her.

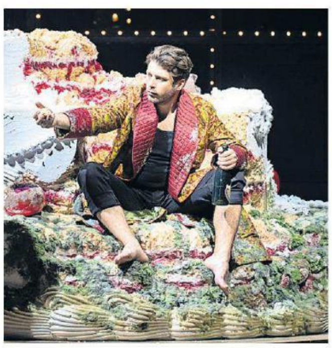
It leaves Giovanni a spectator in his own opera. Far from exuding dangerous allure, Andrey Zhilikhovsky spends most of his time wistfully watching other people grope each other. Why he deserves that full-flame roasting in the last scene is hard to understand. He's often the least gripping singer on stage, too, certainly when confronted by Jerzy Butryn's sturdy Commendatore, Mikhail Timoshenko's droll Leporello or Victoria Randem's assertive Zerlina.

This, though, is a show that puzzles more than it sizzles. The costumes — basically Essex stag and hen parties until the boys symbolically put on their rapist balaclavas — are modern-day, yet Julia Hansen's balconied hotel set looks like something in which you might stage an Agatha Christie murder mystery.

And I can't work out why the chorus come on stage so often as spectators, only to stand around looking bemused, as well they might. At least Clément gets one big laugh from the audience — when all the hotel's picture frames swivel round to reveal 40 female beasts. It says much that this is the most striking moment.

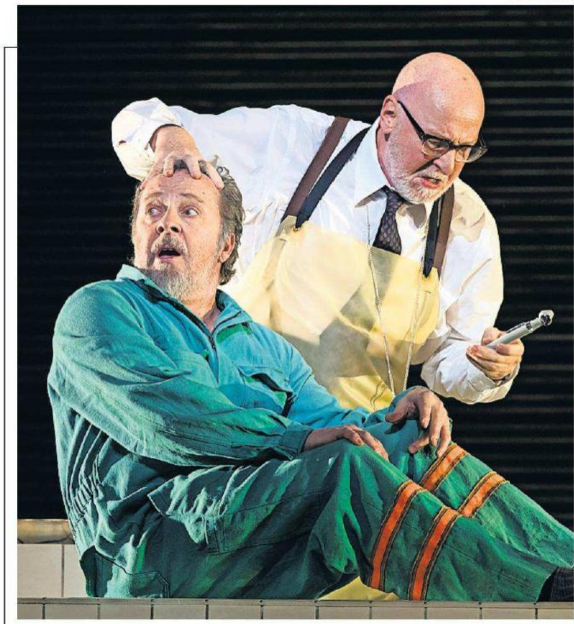
No such revelations from the pit, where the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment plays stylishly without ever being in danger of sounding excited, and the conductor Evan Rogister lets singers and instrumentalists drift apart in tempo too often. Not a vintage night on the South Downs.

**Richard Morrison**
**To July 15, glyndebourne.com**



**Andrey Zhilikhovsky as Don Giovanni**

TRISTRAM KENTON



**Christian Gerhaher and Brindley Sherratt in Wozzeck**

# A dark night with real soul

**Neil Fisher salutes a pungent new revival of Alban Berg's disturbing masterpiece**

## opera

### Wozzeck
Royal Opera House
★★★★☆

Opera is a multisensory experience, the music in dialogue — sometimes a violent one — with the visuals. In Deborah Warner's new Royal Opera production of Alban Berg's disturbing masterpiece, there is also the power of smell. This show stinks. Before the opera begins we see the men of the army barracks at the urinal, or squatting on the toilet. They sniff themselves, scratch at dirty underwear or flick soiled cloths at Christian Gerhaher's boiler-suited Wozzeck as he mops up the filth.

So, no, not an escapist night at the opera. The cloacal prelude does, however, tap into this opera's obsession with all things bodily; man reduced to flesh. Wozzeck is treated like a lab rat by the Doctor (a brilliant laconic turn by Brindley Sherratt), a man who lovingly strokes a corpse, his latest experiment. The image is chillingly recalled when the tortured Wozzeck embraces the dead body of Marie, the mother of his child, whom he has murdered. It is the most affection he's shown her all evening.

This *Wozzeck* comes soon after Warner's *Peter Grimes* here, and it shares that show's stark vision of the destitute and the marginalised, as well as the director's precise dramaturgy. The swift scene changes are well handled by designer Hyemi Shin, whose grungy, vaguely contemporary settings are offset with expressionist touches: the blood moon, a forest of bare trees. If the staging is not the "radically new vision" of the opera that Warner says she set out to make, it is as unsparing as the work needs to be.

And she has luxury support. Gerhaher sings with impeccable nuance and sensitivity — with the flipside of this noble, careworn portrayal that this Wozzeck lacks an obsessive edge. Anja Kampe's sympathetic Marie sumptuously vaults through Berg's exacting music. Peter Hoare's hectoring Captain is another of the tenor's pungent cameos, and there are very strong performances from Rosie Aldridge as the raddled Margret and, even lower in the human food chain, Barnaby Rea's vagrant and John Findon's movingly vulnerable Fool. I was less convinced by Clay Hilley's preening Drum Major, whose costume and characterisation strike an odd, eccentric note.

As for the orchestra, you won't hear this anguished, complex music sound more beautiful, nor the score's Romantic echoes as richly amplified as they are through Antonio Pappano's conducting. It's a stunning challenge to the bleakness of what's on stage. More than anchoring the production, Pappano and his players give a dark night its soul.

**To June 7, roh.org.uk**

## theatre

### Dear Billy
Traverse, Edinburgh
★★★★☆

Someday, no doubt, a biopic will be made about the comedian Billy Connolly. There is plenty of raw material, after all, in his rise from a chaotic upbringing in Partick and work as a boilerman in the Govan shipyards, to megastardom as a stand-up comedian, folk singer and actor. It's hard, however, to imagine a conventional trawl through the Big Yin's life story having anything like the poignancy and depth of insight of this 90-minute show from the writer-performer Gary McNair.

With his shoulder-length curly hair and beard, McNair bears a certain resemblance to his subject. Otherwise, there's nothing in the way of impersonation here, and no attempt to recreate Connolly's routines, though there is a wistful rendition of *Everybody Knows That* (one of his songs with the Humblebums) from McNair and the musicians Simon Liddell and Jill O'Sullivan.

The real stars are the people McNair interviewed up and down the land. He recounts their stories verbatim, moving from one character to another. Many are recognisable types, from the bar-table comedians who claim they can do Connolly's jokes better than the man himself, to those who begrudge his success. There are others, too, who offer insights into his upbringing, the macho atmosphere of Clydeside, his kindness and philanthropy, and his impact on perceptions of Scottishness in the Seventies.

What emerges is a brilliant portrait not only of the Big Yin as others see him, but of his importance as a cultural touchstone (and whipping boy) to many Scots. McNair shapes the material beautifully, and if there is an element of ventriloquism to his performance, the verbatim element is accomplished with respect and affection.

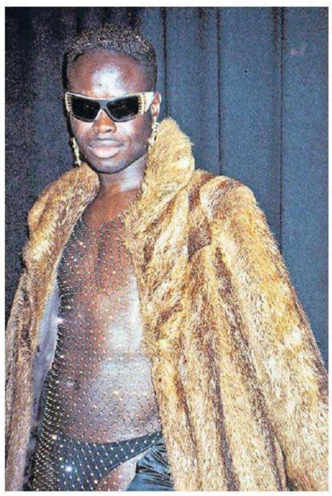
**Allan Radcliffe**
**Touring to June 24, nationaltheatrescotland.com**

## visual art

### V&A Photography Centre
V&A, SW7
★★★☆☆

The V&A's newly revamped and expanded photography section is a mix of the good, the bad and the total drag. More than good, the first room is a masterclass. It tells the story of photography: from the first flash of inspiration in the 1840s to the present day. First, a display of bulbs and their foils, lined up largest to smallest like un-nested Russian dolls, as sparkling as anything in the nearby jewellery galleries. We are led through the greats and their innovations, from Henry Fox Talbot to Eadweard Muybridge. A series of stereographs — two images taken from different angles and superimposed to make a single three-dimensional illusion — are sheer magic. Peer through the lenses and discover a miniature world. In the First World War, stereographic aerial images taken from planes helped reconnaissance pilots to locate camouflaged objects and hideouts. Charles Smeaton's photographs of the catacombs of Rome lit by magnesium flares are eerily evocative.

At the centre of the Photography Centre is a new library housing the Royal Photographic Society archive. Gracefully fitted out by the architects



**Photograph by Liz Johnson Artur**

Gibson Thornley, it is a sleek companion to the V&A's glorious National Art Library. Before you reach the paradise of the new library, however, you must pass through the purgatory of Jake Elwes's *The Zizi Show*, "a deepfake drag cabaret that explores the ethical problems which exist in Artificial Intelligence". Elwes has observed that AI systems "have difficulty recognising trans, queer and other marginalised identities", which can cause the technology to break down. So we get glitchy drag avatars performing *X-Factor*-style auditions, projected against the full height of the wall. It is loudly insistent and intrusive and an utterly absurd thing to put on next to a library.

The galleries beyond here exemplify the challenges faced by institutions today: magnificent historic holdings meet anxious newer acquisitions. "The breadth of subject matter explored by these international artists includes identity, race, sexuality, and climate change," says the press release. I wouldn't call that breadth. Those are seemingly the only interests of contemporary artists and curators. The same drumbeat thunders from art fairs, art prizes and museum acquisitions panels. Identity, sex, empire and climate doom, doom, doom repeated ad nauseam. Imminent, always, of course.

**Laura Freeman**
**The Photography Centre opens on Thursday, vam.ac.uk**

MARC BRENNER



# How I turned myself into Putin

## Will Keen tells Dominic Maxwell about becoming the Russian dictator for Peter Morgan's play Patriots

The next time you see Vladimir Putin on television, keep an eye out for what he does with his hands and feet. Last summer, when the Russian president was seen tapping his foot in a meeting with his defence minister, there was speculation that his fidgeting meant he was losing control of his faculties.

In fact, says Will Keen, the actor who last month won an Olivier award for playing Putin in Peter Morgan's play *Patriots*, the opposite is true. For Putin, tapping his foot, as with so much in his life, is strategy rather than accident. As part of his preparations for the show's first run at the Almeida in north London last summer, Keen, 53, watched all sorts of documentaries and read lots of books about Putin, modern Russia and the last days of the Soviet Union. He found *First Person*, a collection of interviews published soon after Putin became president in 2000, particularly illuminating.

Keen also boned up on the sort of physical training that Putin would have gone through in the KGB. His performance was notable for its physical control — a quality it shared with earlier stage roles such as his Pastor Manders opposite Lesley Manville in the Almeida's version of Ibsen's *Ghosts* in 2013 and his Father McPhail opposite his teenage daughter, Dafne (Lyra), in the BBC's adaptation of Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*. It is a trait that Keen also saw in Putin.

"I looked at how he moves — and how he doesn't move," Keen says as we sit in a coffee shop in Waterloo, London, before he begins rehearsals for the West End transfer of *Patriots*. "He has a kind of catlike stillness which is part of KGB training. And a telling thing is the immobile right hand that you observe in ex-KGB people — see him walking and his left hand swings like a gunslinger but he keeps his right hand still." Keen glances down at where a holstered gun would be, or would once have been, inside Putin's jacket.

"And if you watch him in interviews, you see his foot tapping, and all of the tension of the body is going into it. They're actually educated to do this by the KGB. In negotiations, the tension you are feeling has got to go somewhere." There, simple. Try that the next time you ask for a pay rise.

All that inner tension, though, is something he can tap into as an actor. In person, Keen has an assured, unhurried manner that helps to explain how, in tandem with his shaved head, some of his most distinctive roles have been clerics or baddies or both. He can do imposing, but it doesn't look like work. Which is handy. One of the stage directions in this script by Morgan — the creator of *The Crown*, in which Keen appeared as Queen Elizabeth's private secretary, Peter Adeane — suggests that 'Putin ossifies'. "It's scary," Keen says, chuckling. He can't quite remember at which point that comes. "Oh my goodness. There is quite a lot of ossifying going on."

Morgan's script depicts the shifting power play between Putin and the eccentric Russian billionaire Boris Berezovsky (Tom Hollander). Berezovksy imagines himself the pivotal mentor to Putin, the deputy mayor of St Petersburg when they meet. Only later does he realise that Putin has already served 16 years in intelligence. Later, when he becomes a dissident in Britain, Putin refuses to let him return to Mother Russia.

Pertinent as it may be to global affairs since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February, Morgan wrote the play before then. The play's events end soon after Berezovsky's final run-ins with Putin in 2013. Keen did his first read-through for Morgan, the director Rupert Goold and the producer Sonia Friedman in January 2022. The invasion did, however, prompt Goold to suggest they get it on stage sooner than planned.

Does delving into Putin's mindset make Keen more sympathetic to him? Not sympathetic, he insists, but empathetic. "I think Putin sees himself as a profoundly moral man who's on a mission. We can look at it from the outside and say it's something else. But the point about proper, great liars is that they fully believe their position."

It's a rich role that has already brought Keen rewards. He was so happy to get the Olivier for best actor in a supporting role, while squirming slightly at being picked out in front of the rest of the cast. In fact, on stage at the Royal Albert Hall at the ceremony, his speech was notably modest. He suggested playing "a living, breathing, internationally recognised villain is a bit of a home run" before dedicating his award to someone he felt was the opposite of all that: his father, Charles, who died in 2021.





**From top: Will Keen as Putin in Patriots; in His Dark Materials; with his daughter, Dafne Keen**

Keen came from a well-off, creative background. Charles, a banker who retired early, was known for writing "very funny verse plays" to be performed at family events. His mother, Mary, is a garden designer and writer. All of the family have been involved in gardening as a result, and all three of his sisters write: Alice Oswald is a poet, Laura Beatty is a novelist and biographer and Ellie Keen has worked as a human rights activist and is researching sustainable food.

Their brother started his professional career age 11, while living in Berkshire, when he got a job acting in a production of *The Railway Children* in Basingstoke. He later played Ariel in the same theatre's production of *The Tempest*. His professional acting paused while he went to boarding school at Eton College — where he once played Gertrude to Dominic West's *Hamlet* in the school play — then studied English at Oxford. He counts himself hugely lucky that Ian McKellen was teaching theatre there at the time: "That was inspiring and eye-opening." And although he had an eye on going to drama school after that, he started

> **He has a kind of catlike stillness which is part of KGB training**

getting enough work that he was diverted. "So I've always had the guilt of not having gone to drama school." Still proving himself, then? He chuckles. "Yeah, absolutely, it never goes away."

Keen is the kind of actor whose name you may not know but who keeps cropping up on stage and screen. His television work includes *Ridley Road*, *The Pursuit of Love*, *Wolf Hall* (as another religious man, Thomas Cranmer), *The Musketeers* and the inevitable *Midsomer Murders*. I have seen him in more than I'd realised, I say, if that's not a backhanded compliment.

"No, no, quite the reverse. I like to be anonymous; I want to become the character, so that's just what I'm after." Anonymity has its drawbacks, however: while he did a lot of theatre work in the Nineties, he also spent a lot of that decade working as a painter and decorator. The Olivier is a joy, but offers of work have not flooded in as a result. Was there not a point where he finally felt fully established in his profession? "Oh that never happens. I'm not exaggerating. I worked for a while as a gardener last year. You do what you need to do."

After starring in *His Dark Materials*, Dafne, 18, is doing well: she is working on the female-led *Star Wars* series *The Acolyte*. He spent 11 years living in Madrid when Dafne was growing up and going to school there: his wife, the actress and director María Fernández Ache, is Spanish. They appeared together in a film, *Viento Sur*, that came out in Spain in April. However, he asks not to talk about his marriage today: he will say only that he is "nomadic" but living in the centre of London while in *Patriots*.

We segue from that into talking about his latest TV role, appearing in the forthcoming second season of the Amazon series *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*. Or try to. Sorry, he says, he can't say anything about that either. "They are very, very careful." If Russian intelligence don't get him, Amazon will.

In the meantime, he is relishing returning to *Patriots*. And, while the play hasn't changed for its second run, he feels its resonances have changed with the war in Ukraine. "I'm not a political specialist, but it does feel different from how it felt when we did it last year. There is a different nuance about the way we perceive Putin. And I think that changes on a daily basis."

***Patriots* is at the Noël Coward Theatre, London, Friday to August 19, patriotstheplay.com**

times2

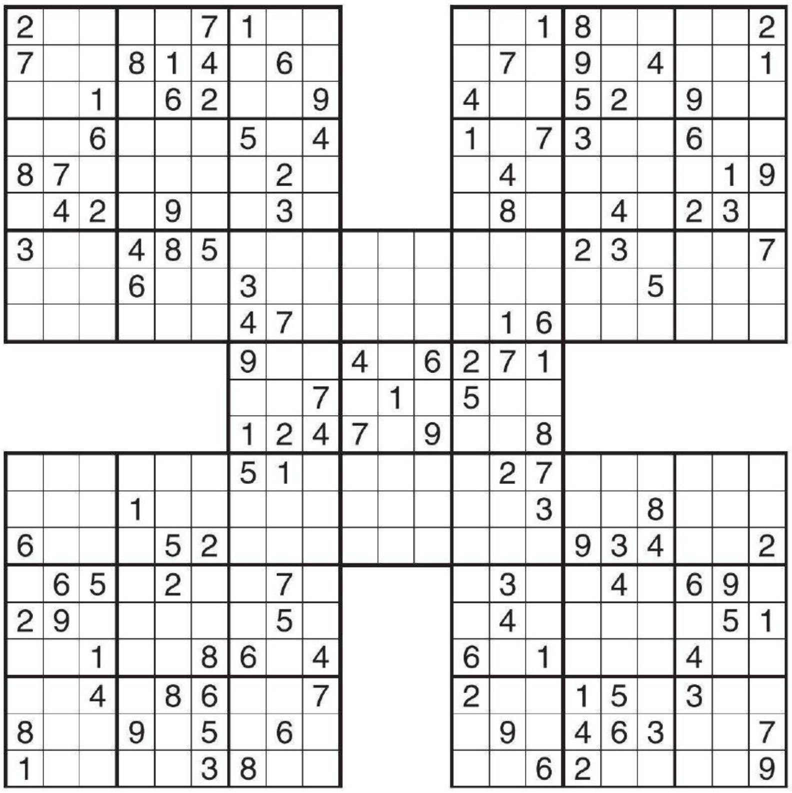
# Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

## Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

## Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

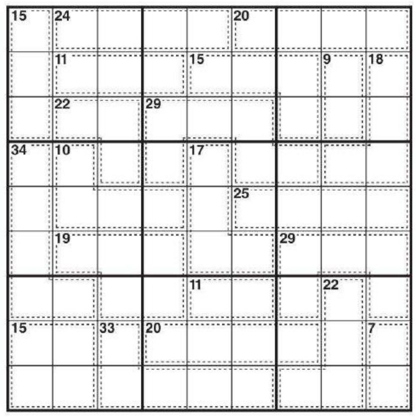


## Sudoku super fiendish

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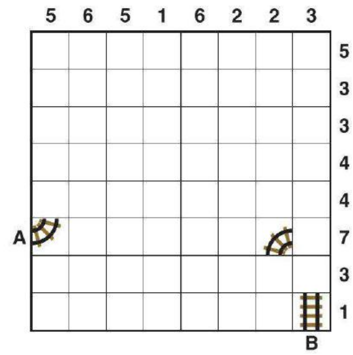
## Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



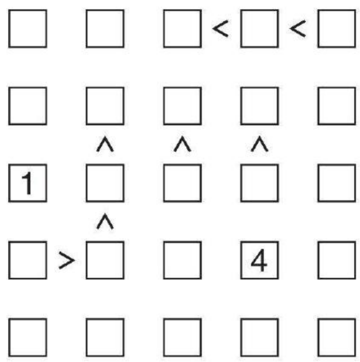
## Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

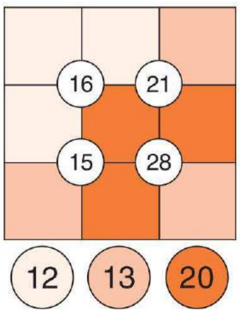



## Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



## Suko

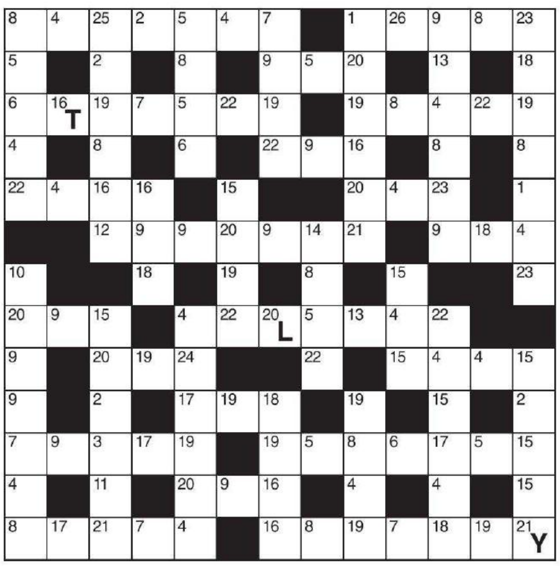



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

## Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.






## Mini Sudoku

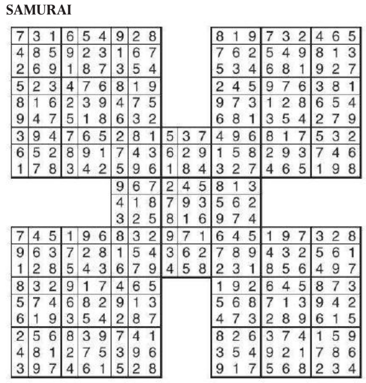
Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

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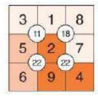
Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

## Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI



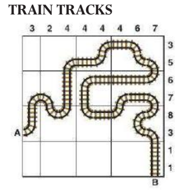
SUKO



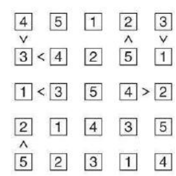
MINI SUDOKU



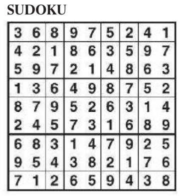
TRAIN TRACKS



FUTOSHIKI



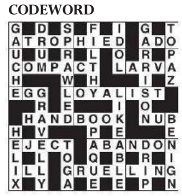
SUDOKU



KILLER



CODEWORD



# Depp v Heard: who really won in the long term?

**Carol Midgley**
**TV review**



**Depp v Heard**
Channel 4
★★★☆☆

**The Fight to Free Assange**
ITV1
★★★☆☆

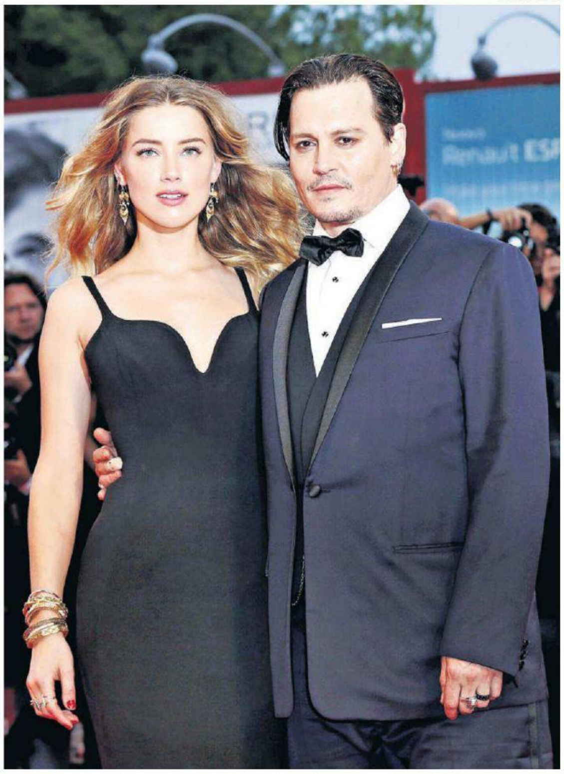
Whether you were "Team Johnny" or "Team Amber" during last year's unedifying courtroom showdown between Johnny Depp and Amber Heard (few queueing for the circus seemed to be "Team Let's Hear the Evidence"), you couldn't see all that dirty marital washing, that passion turned to snarling hate, without feeling a little soiled. Not as soiled (allegedly!) as Depp's bedsheets, mind, after he claimed she left a human stool on them in what's now known as a "revenge poop".

But **Depp v Heard**, a zippy three-parter that spliced their courtroom testimony to place their opposing stories side by side along with the partisan opinions of superfans watching, was a reminder that this was essentially a death match, a nihilistic duel with each participant blasting the other to pieces. It should be a cautionary warning to other celebrities that in such cases no one escapes without a reputational pasting.

It edited down hours of testimony at Fairfax County courthouse in Virginia so we saw only the highlights, such as Heard claiming she was a victim of domestic violence with the bruises to prove it, and Depp claiming she was lying and in fact hit him. We'd seen the videos and heard the recordings before — he kicking his fridge and pouring himself a morning "megapint" of red wine, she admitting to having hit him.

This wasn't really about law, it was about "optics". The trolling Heard received from Depp fans was horrendous and, as one interviewee said, will surely intimidate other women alleging domestic abuse. Depp has signed a $20 million contract with Dior and released a new film so his rehabilitation seems under way while Heard has reportedly quit Hollywood and moved to Spain. Maybe this tells us who won the "optics".

ANDREA RAFFIN



**Amber Heard and Johnny Depp at the 2015 Venice Film Festival**

Julian Assange is a polarising figure, so it perhaps benefited **Ithaka: The Fight to Free Assange** that he barely appeared in it, the focus being on his father, John Shipton, and his wife and legal adviser, Stella Moris. His absence was unavoidable what with him having been in HMP Belmarsh since 2019. But that we only heard him in calls to his wife in which he pleaded for her to take the phone outdoors so he could hear birdsong provided a sympathetic backdrop amid claims that he is being psychologically tortured by the state.

Yet there are few shades of grey here. Assange is a hero, he is morally right and powerful states are smearing the whistleblower to distract from their war crimes, is the drill. There may be truth in this but it might shine brighter in a less partisan setting (the producer is Assange's half-brother). Some things, such as former rape allegations against him, were not addressed.

Shipton refused to answer questions about his estrangement from his son from the age of three to his twenties. Yet his love for him and his valiant fight now are without question. The real powerhouse is Stella, who is not only a lawyer, campaigner and Assange's emotional support system but a mother of two young children conceived secretly when he was holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy. No one could envy Assange's predicament, but he is lucky to have her.

**Radio choice**
Ben Dowell



**Taking Issue With Shakespeare**
Radio 4, 1.45pm

**In this programme, airing across the week, Emma Smith, *above*, a University of Oxford English professor and Shakespeare specialist, explores how the Bard might help us to resolve various challenging contemporary issues. Her guests include Michael Gove on the "levelling up" agenda and *King Lear* and Will Self on toxic masculinity and *Hamlet*. In the opening episode she discusses how Sweet Will might face the challenges of populism with Gordon Brown, the former prime minister, and Shriti Vadera, the investment banker and chairwoman of the Royal Shakespeare Company.**

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## Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
**5.00am** Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

## Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
**6.30am** The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay. The actor Philip Glenister chooses the Tracks of My Years **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. Cerys catches up with blues revival band GA-20, who formed in Boston in 2018 and set out to make their own take on song-based traditional electric blues **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

## Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
**6.30am Breakfast**
Petroc Trelawny presents
**9.00 Essential Classics**
Georgia Mann presents music and features
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Ligeti (1923-2006)**
Kate Molleson is joined by the pianist Danny Driver to look at the life and music of the Hungarian composer György Ligeti, beginning with his formative years. Ligeti (*Musica ricercata* — IV. Tempo de Valse, poco vivace — à l'orgue de Barbarie; *Poème symphonique for 100 metronomes* — excerpt; *Three Wedding Dances for two pianos — Három lakodalmi tánc*: No 1, *A kapuban a szeker*; No 2, *Hopp ide tisztán*; No 3, *Csango forgos*; Romanian Concerto — I: Andantino; II: Allegro vivace; III: Adagio ma non troppo; IV: Molto vivace; Piano Concerto — I: I. Vivace molto ritmico e preciso; II. Lento e deserto; III: Vivace cantabile; and *Musica ricercata* nos 3 to 8 — III: Allegro con spirito; IV: Tempo de Valse; VI. Allegro molto capriccioso; VII. Cantabile, molto legato; VIII. Vivace. Energico)
**1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert**
Hannah French presents from London's Wigmore Hall with the Sitkovetsky Trio. Sam Perkin (Freakshow); Beethoven (Allegretto in B flat, WoO 39); and Mendelssohn (Piano Trio No 2 in C minor, Op 66)
**2.00 Afternoon Concert**
Ian Skelly begins a week of music from Denmark and Sweden with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra performing Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. Including — Mozart (Overture to *Lucio Silla*); Debussy (*Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*); Camille Pépin (*Les Eaux célestes*); Senfl (*Spiritus Sanctus in te descendet*; and *Santa Maria Virgo, intercede*); Stravinsky (*The Rite of Spring*); Daser (*Ecce quam bonum*); and Beethoven (Symphony No 8 in F, Op 93)
**4.30 New Generation Artists**
The pianist Alexander Gadjiev and the cellist Anastasia Kobekina perform. Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38); and Bach (Suite No 3 in C for Cello Solo, BWV 1009)
**5.00 In Tune**
With the King's Singers
**7.00 Classical Mixtape**
A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world
**7.30 Radio 3 in Concert**
Fiona Talkington presents Philippe Herreweghe conducting two Mozart masterpieces with the sopranos Katharina Konradi and Eva Zaicik, the Ilker Arcayurek, the bass Mikhail Timoshenko, the Collegium Vocale Ghent, and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra at the Berlin Philhamonie. Mozart (Symphony No.41 in C, K. 551, *Jupiter*; and Mass in C minor, K 427, *Great*)
**9.00 Ultimate Calm**
Olafur Arnalds explores musical matters of the heart with soothing love-inspired selections by artists including Sandrayati, Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guèbrou and Kjartan Sveinsson. The Icelandic composer, singer-songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist JFDR shares her Safe Haven pick
**10.00 Music Matters**
Sara Mohr-Pietsch talks to Poet Laureate Simon Armitage about the art of lyric writing, and hears from people involved in Leeds Lieder Festival about how poets and musicians have come together to write songs about the local community (r)
**10.45 The Essay: Death in Trieste**
Seán Williams investigates the murder of art historian Johann Winckelmann in 1768
**11.00 Night Tracks**
Hannah Peel presents an adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening
**12.30am Through the Night** (r)

## Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
**5.30am News Briefing**
**5.43 Prayer for the Day**
**5.45 Farming Today**
**5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r)
**6.00 Today**
With Mishal Husain and Justin Webb
**9.00 Start the Week**
A discussion on birds and moths
**9.45 (LW) Daily Service**
**9.45 Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea**
By Naoíse Mac Sweeney (1/5)
**10.00 Woman's Hour**
Nuala McGovern presents the magazine
**11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor**
The peace talks happening behind the scenes are put to the test by the murder (5/6)
**11.30 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley**
Parallels between cases in the series and today's criminal justice system (10/10)
**12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**12.04 You and Yours**
**1.00 The World at One**
**1.45 Taking Issue with Shakespeare**
Exploring whether the works of Shakespeare might help resolve contemporary issues. ***See Radio Choice*** (1/5)
**2.00 The Archers** (r)
**2.15 This Cultural Life**
Nick Cave reveals his formative influences and experiences (8/12) (r)
**3.00 Round Britain Quiz**
Kirsty Lang hosts the quiz, as the Midlands take on the South of England (7/12)
**3.30 The Food Programme**
Dan Saladino meets a group of people living like hunter-gatherers (r)
**4.00 Does the Irish Republic Want Reunification?**
Andrea Catherwood investigates the prospect of reunification in Ireland
**4.30 The Digital Human**
Aleks Krotoski explores the rise of a new form of social media language (1/6)
**5.00 PM**
**5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast**
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 Just a Minute**
With Gyles Brandreth, Jan Ravens, Tony Hawks and Rachel Parris. Last in the series
**7.00 The Archers**
Helen fears the worst
**7.15 Front Row**
**8.00 Faith on the Factory Floor, Flock in a Hard Hat**
Exploring the role of the British Industrial Mission in a changing world of work
**8.30 Crossing Continents**
The extent of crime in New Orleans. Last in the series (r)
**9.00 Supersenses**
Technological developments that could help create all-sensing superhuman (5/5) (r)
**9.30 Start the Week**
A discussion on birds and moths (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight**
With Jamie Coomarasamy
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece**
Tom Hanks reads from his debut novel, abridged by Robin Brooks (6/10)
**11.00 The Patch**
The postcode generator sends Polly Weston to Gartree, a small village that hosts a prison for people serving life sentences (2/4) (r)
**11.30 Today in Parliament**
**12.00 News and Weather**
**12.30am Book of the Week: The West — A New History of an Old Idea** (r)
**12.48 Shipping Forecast**
**1.00 As BBC World Service**

## Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
**8.00am** Round the Horne **8.30** Dry Slopes **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** The Prisoner **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** The Wolf Far Hence **12.00** In My Mind's Eye **12.15pm** Dead Cert **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Dry Slopes **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** The Prisoner **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** The Wolf Far Hence **5.00** In My Mind's Eye **5.15** Dead Cert **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Dry Slopes **7.00** The Write Stuff. With the novelist John O'Farrell and the journalist Alex Clark **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet. The couple hire a builder **8.00** Joan Collins — A Life in Lipstick. The actress discusses her career (1/2) **9.00** Mastertapes. The making of Richard Thompson's *Rumour and Sigh*. First aired in 2013 **9.30** Ruth Rendell Stories. *A Dark Blue Perfume*. Originally broadcast in 2001 **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth. By Julian Simpson **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute. With Paul Merton, Felicity Ward, Ivo Graham and Josie Lawrence **10.30** And Now in Colour. Comedy sketches with Tim Firth. From 1990 **11.00** The News Quiz. With Neil Delamere, Geoff Norcott, Ashley Storrie and Freddy Gray **11.30** The Skivers. Des Lynam and Sue Cook's secrets revealed

## Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
**5.00am** Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket. The latest news **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

## talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
**5.00am** Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Newcastle United v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**). Commentary on the Premier League match at St James' Park **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

## TalkRadio
Digital only
**5.00am** James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Live Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

## 6 Music
Digital only
**5.00am** Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne. With live music by Sparks **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Amy Lamé **12.00** Pulp: In Their Own Words **1.00am** Peel Acres **2.00** Common People: The Story of Pulp **3.00** Pulp Live **4.00** The Pulp Playlist

## Virgin Radio
Digital only
**6.30am** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with cinch **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

## Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
**6.00am** More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

# television & radio

## Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

### Maryland
ITV1, 9pm

**Top pick** The discovery of a body on a beach might seem as conventional a TV drama opening as you can imagine. But this three-parter, based on an idea developed by its star Suranne Jones with the writer Anne Marie O'Connor, is anything but run-of-the-mill. The dead woman is Mary and the location is the Isle of Man, which compounds the shock for Mary's adult daughters, Becca (Jones) and Rosaline (Eve Best). Mary had led everyone to believe she was holidaying in Wales. She, of course, cannot answer her daughters' questions and the slow reveals can be surprising and intense, but rarely stretch credulity. In many ways this is a love story involving the two sisters and their quest to solve years of buried resentment. Becca has felt put-upon by her husband and blood family, caring for Rosaline (a cancer survivor) and, later, her mother. As someone who has invested so much in her family, Becca feels Mary's betrayal more keenly. Rosaline has her own narrative, and their flare-ups can be prompted by the smallest provocation. Their resolve is tested when they meet Mary's Manx friends, Hugh Quarshie's inscrutable Pete and the lively American Cathy, played by Stockard Channing (Rizzo from *Grease*). Does Mary's widower Richard (George Costigan) know more than he is letting on? It's beautifully directed by Sue Tully, and episode two is tomorrow with the conclusion on Wednesday. This is very good.

### Succession
Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

The protesters are on the streets after ATN called the election for right-winger Jeryd Mencken — and Logan Roy finally has his send-off. *Church and State*, the penultimate episode of a drama so good it is almost frightening, begins with Roman confidently rehearsing his funeral oration before cracking many disgustingly inappropriate jokes. It's not the only thing that might make you catch your breath in tonight's longer episode. Perhaps the only development that won't shock you is the sight of the Roy boys' and Shiv's plotting between all the consoling handshakes.

## BBC1

**Early**

**6.00am** Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain. The case of a man whose phone was stolen right out of his hands **10.00** Frontline Fightback. A driver is ambushed by a carjacking gang outside his home in Birmingham **10.45** Defenders UK. A seven-year-old boy suffers a fatal electric shock during a family visit to their local pub **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties about to be auctioned in Southampton and Shropshire (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Caroline Hawley presents the show from Hemswell in Lincolnshire (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Rob comes to see the dangers of clinging to past traumas (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Restoring metal railings, a tired writing bureau and a collection of marbles **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a retired couple to find a new home in Northumberland **3.45** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. New series. The opening day of the horticultural event **4.30** The Repair Shop. A small broken statue and a glamorous painting are among the items (r) (AD) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong with Sally Lindsay (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

**7PM**

**7.00 The One Show** Presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

**7.30 EastEnders** Stacey panics when her secrets are revealed (AD)

**8PM**

**8.00 Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets — Panorama** The potentially toxic legacy of historic landfill sites

**8.30 Scam Interceptors** Ethical hackers hunt down cybercriminals (6/10) (r)

**9PM**

**9.00 Steeltown Murders** With the swabbing operation set in motion, Paul is adamant to corner Sandra Newton's stepfather, a taxi driver who did not have an alibi on the night of the murders. With Keith Allen. *See Viewing Guide* (2/4) (AD)

**10PM**

**10.00** BBC News at Ten

**10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather**

**10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Mel Giedroyc hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz, with the comedian Chris McCausland and the broadcaster Kirsty Wark joining Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (6/10)

**11PM**

**11.25 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star** The MUAs work in pairs to create special effects make-up for the BBC show *Ghosts*, and are judged by the show's hair and make-up designer Natalie Pateman (3/8) (r)

**Late**

**12.30am-6.00 BBC News**

## BBC2

**Early**

**6.45am** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (r) **7.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Cornwall (r) (AD, SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. The chef uncovers how regional conditions affect the flavour of local produce (r) (AD) **2.45** A Countryside Summer. Sean Fletcher goes on a bikepacking adventure (r) (AD) **3.15** Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help a family of fussy eaters in Gosport on the south coast. Last in the series (r) (AD) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The contestants redesign cafes in Margate with one team opting for a bold colour palette, while the others channel the colours of the sea with cool blues and vintage shutters (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! Paul Martin presents previously unseen finds from the show's travels round the country (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Mehreen Baig, Clare Balding, Jamie Laing and Mike Wozniak (r) **6.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. New series. Michael Portillo heads to the Isle of Man (AD)

**7.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers** Paul Murton explores the history of the River Nith in the southwest (4/6)

**7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show** Monty Don and Joe Swift review some of the 35 inspirational gardens on offer at the show, as well as exploring the immaculate displays of growers in the Great Pavilion. Meanwhile, Adam Frost delves into a garden created with community in mind

**8.30 University Challenge** The second and concluding semi-final sees two teams of students battling it out to make it to the climax of the competition

**9.00 Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland** New series. Stories of the Troubles from people on all sides of the conflict, beginning by looking at how the situation in Northern Ireland in the late-1960s deteriorated from a time of relative peace. *See Viewing Guide* (1/5) (AD)

**10.15 QI XS** Highlights from recent series' of the comedy panel show, featuring clips on the theme of travel (4/6)

**10.30 Newsnight** Presented by Kirsty Wark

**11.15 Do the Right Thing (15, 1989)** A pizza parlour is the focus of simmering racial tensions on the hottest day of the summer in a Brooklyn neighbourhood. Drama directed by and starring Spike Lee with Danny Aiello and John Turturro. *See Viewing Guide*

**Late**

**1.10am Sign Zone: Countryfile** Charlotte Smith visits a Cornish farm that provides mental and physical health support (r) (SL) **2.05** Wrexham: Hollywood or Bust! A journey through the history of Wrexham AFC (r) (AD, SL) **2.35-3.35** Turkey: Empire of Erdogan. Documentary about the Turkish president (1/2) (r) (AD, SL)

## ITV1

**Early**

**6.00am** Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of showbiz chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Newcastle racecourse, where a gruesome collection makes a small fortune at auction and a diamond ring deal sees Henry Nicholls pushed all the way (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. A team of family and friends take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh hosts as four contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

**7.30 Emmerdale** Caleb finally get access to Kim's bank accounts on her laptop (AD)

**8.00 Coronation Street** Faye admits to feeling trapped by Craig. Paul researches a promising new drug treatment, Brian introduces Isabella to his neighbours and Hope sabotages Sam's surprise for Eliza (AD)

**9.00 Maryland** New series. Drama about two sisters who have grown apart over the years, but a tragic event brings them back together. Starring Suranne Jones and Eve Best with George Costigan and Stockard Channing. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3) (AD)

**10.00 ITV News at Ten**

**10.30 Regional News**

**10.45 The 1% Club** Quiz in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000. Hosted by Lee Mack (5/8) (r) (AD)

**11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite** Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r)

**Late**

**1.20am Teleshopping 3.00** Maryland. Drama starring Suranne Jones and Eve Best (r) (AD, SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Save Money: Good Diet. Sian Williams investigates the trend for food with added protein (r) (AD, SL) **5.35-6.00** James Martin's French Adventure. The chef visits L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue (r) (AD, SL)

## Channel 4

**Early**

**6.05am** Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Simon O'Brien and Henry Cole meet an avid collector and former mayor (r) (AD) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me. A pair host first in Birmingham (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Vick Hope is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. The Garners and the Rodriguezes revisit previous clients to discover how their property purchases and lives have been transformed. Last in the series (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergi goes house-hunting in Oliva, in Spain's Valencia region, hoping to find a suitable holiday home for keen cyclists from Portsmouth **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A family from Manchester transform a hamlet in France (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer whisks his family away to Marge's favourite childhood holiday destination, where his misdemeanours force him to become a fisherman to repay a debt (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. At the youth centre, Felix is on the receiving end of a warning. Meanwhile, Charlie finds himself under ever more pressure (r) (AD)

**7.00 Channel 4 News**

**8.00 Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country** Graham and Sarah turn their attention to the garden, going on the hunt for trees and shrubs that would improve the backdrop to their lake and restoring an old bridge over a stream near their pond (6/7) (AD)

**9.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics** The air ambulance is dispatched to two serious road traffic collisions, while on the west bank of Loch Lomond, a minibus carrying 15 tourists has collided with a car. In South Ayrshire, an 86-year-old grandmother is struggling to breathe after a high-speed crash (AD)

**10.00 Depp v Heard** A violent confrontation between Depp and Heard as they visit Australia results in Depp losing part of his finger, with Heard making a shocking allegation (2/3) (AD)

**11.05 My Name Is Reeva** New series. Documentary about Reeva Steenkamp, who was brutally murdered by her Paralympian boyfriend Oscar Pistorius on Valentine's Day 2013 (1/3) (AD)

**Late**

**12.05am Taskmaster** Frankie Boyle goes to town on a gigantic cat scratching post (r) (AD, SL) **1.05** 999: On the Front Line (r) **2.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **2.45** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Vilnius (r) (AD) **3.15** Grand Designs (r) (AD, SL) **4.10** The Dog House (r) (AD) **5.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **5.15-6.05** Moneybags (r)

## Channel 5

**Early**

**6.00am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues as the presenter takes viewers calls on the biggest stories **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views on them **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Eden realises Cash does not remember the night's events and pretends that he proposed to her. Xander's shift takes a sinister turn when a group of thugs ambush the ambulance (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Mystery 101 — Dead Talk (PG, TVM, 2019)** Professor Amy Winslow heads to Seattle to give a lecture, and winds up investigating the death of a tech genius. Thriller starring Jill Wagner and Kristoffer Polaha **4.00** Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown. New series. The presenter takes on fellow antiques experts and auctioneers in a series of challenges that test their knowledge and deal-making skills **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Couples' Therapy take on the experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Jay's Virtual Quiz take part in the quiz (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

**7.00 Traffic Cops** An officer is alerted to a possible disqualified driver when a passing car triggers his ANPR system, but the vehicle fails to stop and a pursuit begins (8/11) (r)

**7.55 5 News Update**

**8.00 Police Interceptors** In one of the fastest pursuits in interceptor history, units mobilise to try to stop a 185mph superbike that is pulling wheelies, giving stinger teams the run-around, and even testing the flying skills of the National Police Air Support Unit

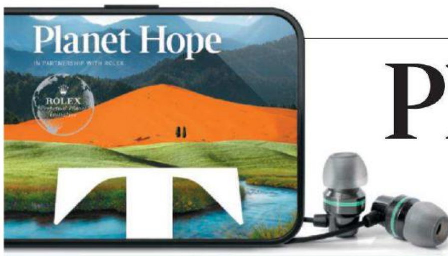
**9.00 Police: Suspect No 1** Detectives investigate when a man is found in the early hours badly beaten at the side of the road with significant facial injuries and little recollection of what happened (3/6)

**10.00 Police: Night Shift 999** Documentary following Gloucestershire Constabulary on the night shift, with a busy Saturday for PC Hewer on patrol in Cheltenham town centre (r)

**11.05 999: Critical Condition** A man is rushed in with some of the worst facial injuries the team have ever seen, a woman has been badly injured in a road accident, and another has fallen in a care home (r)

**Late**

**12.05am Police Interceptors** (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.00** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.25** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.35** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.40** Thomas (r) (SL) **5.55-6.00** Peppa Pig (r) (AD, SL)


Planet Hope: A new podcast

In our new podcast series, Planet Hope, Environment Editor Adam Vaughan meets the experts finding solutions for our changing planet.

## Steeltown Murders
BBC1, 9pm

**At the end of last week's opening episode of this excellent south Wales true crime drama, Philip Glenister's DCI Bethell had confirmation that he was investigating a serial killer. In the 1973 timeline we see younger Bethell (Scott Arthur) under orders from stubborn bosses not to pursue a link. The writer Ed Whitmore continues to keep a firm control of the double timelines and the tension ratchets in the 2000s when Bethell pays a visit to Sandra's stepfather Dai, once a person of interest. He's played by Keith Allen with fearsome energy.**

## Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland
BBC2, 9pm

**This new series about ordinary people's experiences of the Troubles begins, rather brilliantly, with a woman remembering the time she competed for the Miss Ireland crown in the 1980s. During the whole ridiculous pageant nobody knew her story, she said, and that her brother had been murdered. Over the course of this five-part series personal reflections from all areas of Northern Irish society are interwoven with powerful archive footage. Let's hope the message is clear: that we never return to those dark days.**

## Saving Venice
BBC4, 9pm

**"You can't say you live in Venice without understanding the importance of water for the city," a local woman says. The city is one of the glories of western civilisation and $H_2O$ has been its lifeblood, but we are told that it has also experienced nine extreme floods in the 20th century and 16 in the first two decades of this century. This film shows the extent of the problem caused by climate change, but also examines solutions, including a multibillion-dollar flood defence system. Given that more than 100 large global cities are coastal, their efforts could also point the way for the world.**

## Film Do the Right Thing
BBC2, 11.15pm

**Spike Lee's finest film takes place in a racially and culturally mixed neighbourhood in Brooklyn. The hottest day of the year causes the powder keg of tensions to ignite, with tragic and unforeseen circumstances. (15, 1989)**

## Sky Max

**6.00am** Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** Supergirl (r) (AD) **9.00** Quantum Leap (r) **10.00** The Flash (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Quantum Leap (r) **4.00** Supergirl (r) **5.00** The Flash (r)
**6.00** Stargate SG-1. Part two of two. Daniel Jackson and Vala visit a strange planet (r)
**7.00** Stargate SG-1. A group of deities punish those unwilling to change their beliefs (r)
**8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a Navy reservist is stabbed (r)
**9.00** Last King of the Cross. Fact-based crime drama starring Lincoln Younes (r)
**10.00** Bel-Air. Will rallies the students to stage a protest when Ashley's favourite teacher is fired, putting Carlton in an uncomfortable position. Jabari Banks stars (3/10) (r)
**11.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 1. Rob and Romesh try weightlifting (r) (AD)
**12.00** The Force: North East (r) **1.00am** Road Wars (r) **2.00** The Flash **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** MacGyver (r) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

## Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Fish Town (r) **7.55** The Wire (r) **10.05** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **3.30** The Wire (r) **5.45** True Blood. Bill discovers Marnie's deadly plans for the vampires of Bon Temps (r)
**6.50** True Blood. Bill tries to arrange a truce with Marnie, and the ghost haunting Arlene and Terry's baby takes an interest in Lafayette (r)
**7.55** Game of Thrones. Tywin counsels the king, Daenerys exchanges gifts with a slave lord, and Melisandre reveals a secret to Gendry (r) (AD)
**9.00** Succession. Amid rising tensions, Shiv tries to reposition herself within a new political landscape. *See Viewing Guide* (9/10) (r)
**10.25** Billions. Axe negotiates with a reluctant seller and Wendy makes a professional decision that adds further conflict (6/12) (r) (AD)
**11.30** Billions. Axe assembles a war room in the Hamptons following a disastrous setback. Starring Damian Lewis (7/12) (r) (AD)
**12.35am** Souls (r) **2.35** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **3.40** In Treatment (r) **4.10** Fish Town (r)

## Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Laurence Harvey (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** The Sixties (r) (AD) **9.50** The Lady and the Dale (r) **10.55** JFK: Destiny Betrayed (r) **12.00 FILM: Breslin and Hamill — Deadline Artists (12, 2018)** The story of journalists Jimmy Breslin and Pete Hamill
**2.00pm FILM: Fake Famous (2021)** Aspiring social media influencers **3.45** My Icon: Denise Lewis (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: Laurence Harvey (r)
**6.00** The Sixties. British bands (r) (AD)
**6.50** The Lady and the Dale (r)
**7.55** JFK: Destiny Betrayed (r)
**9.00 FILM: Seve (PG, 2021)** The late great master of golf Severiano Ballesteros (AD)
**11.00** The Man Who Played with Fire (2/4) (r)
**12.00 FILM: Who Killed the KLF? (15, 2021)** The rise and fall of the KLF in the 1980s and 1990s (AD) **1.50am** Wework: How to Lose $30b in Two Weeks (r) (AD) **3.50** Baghdad ER (r) **5.05** Discovering: Laurence Harvey (r)

## Sky Arts

**6.00am** King Arthur **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Rock Hudson (AD) **12.00** Doddie Weir Portrait **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Reinventing the Orchestra with Charles Hazlewood **3.00** The Directors (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Groucho Marx (AD) **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
**6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A man becomes suspicious of his wife's housemaid
**6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. An indebted man is hired to accompany a British visitor
**7.00** André Rieu: Live in Brazil. A performance by the Dutch violinist in his first-ever concert in São Paulo with the Johann Strauss Orchestra
**9.00** Discovering Dance on Film. A celebration of memorable dances from cinema history
**10.30 FILM: The Lost Leonardo (15, 2021)** Documentary exploring the case of the missing Salvator Mundi (AD) **12.30am** The Great Buster **2.35** Why Do We Dance? **3.50** Arts Uncovered **4.00** The South Bank Show **5.00** Auction

## Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans. News and views on today's early stories, a look at the back pages, a tip on today's racing and a sporting weather forecast **10.00** The Football Show **11.30** Ref Watch. The Sky Sports team look back over some of the big refereeing decisions **12.00** The Football Show **1.00pm** Sky Sports News
**7.00** Live MNF: Newcastle United v Leicester City (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the Premier League match from St James' Park, as both teams play their penultimate match of the season. Newcastle have already defeated the Foxes twice this term, prevailing 3-0 in the reverse fixture at King Power Stadium on Boxing Day, and winning 2-0 here in the Carabao Cup in January
**11.00** Sky Sports News
**1.30am** Live NBA Basketball: Los Angeles Lakers v Denver Nuggets. Coverage of game four of the Western Conference finals from Crypto.com Arena **4.00** Sky Sports News

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## TalkTV

**6.00am** James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** David Bull. The presenter discusses the biggest stories of the day that matter **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host takes a look at the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues, debates and time for viewers' calls **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. Vanessa guides you through the big stories of the day
**7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter
**8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with debate, straight-talking interviews with the world's leading figures, and plenty of fun
**9.00** The Talk. A panel of opinionated famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs debate the latest topics that everybody is talking about
**10.00** First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers
**11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored
**12.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle **2.00** Vanessa Feltz **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

## BBC4

**7.00pm** Railways: The Making of a Nation. Documentary examining excursion trains
**7.30** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. The development of the steamship (5/6)
**8.00** Italy's Invisible Cities. Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott explore the Italian city of Venice using 3D technology to discover how it became one of the most powerful places in Medieval Europe
**9.00** Saving Venice. Documentary exploring how the Italian city is subject to constant environmental issues, which are becoming more commonplace due to the impact of climate change. *See Viewing Guide*
**10.30** The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. Drama unfolds in the aftermath of the news that the Elizabeth Line has been delayed (2/2)
**11.30** Building Britain's Biggest Nuclear Power Station. The team creates an extensive flood defence system (2/2)
**12.30am** H2O: The Molecule That Made Us. Nasa's Grace satellites reveal global overuse of aquifers **1.25** Novels That Shaped Our World **2.25** Railways: The Making of a Nation **2.55-3.55** Himalaya with Michael Palin (SL)

## Talking Pictures

**6.00am FILM: Penny Paradise (U, 1938)** Comedy starring Edmund Gwenn (b/w) **7.30** Jimmy Edwards at the Tivoli **8.20 FILM: Cloak Without Dagger (U, 1956)** Thriller starring Philip Friend (b/w) **9.40 FILM: Kill Her Gently (PG, 1957)** Crime thriller starring Griffith Jones (b/w) **11.10 FILM: I Believe In You (PG, 1952)** Drama with Cecil Parker (b/w) **12.55pm FILM: Rogue's Yarn (U, 1957)** Crime drama starring Nicole Maurey (b/w) **2.30** Crown Court **3.00 FILM: Fanny (U, 1961)** Drama starring Leslie Caron **5.40** Look at Life
**6.00** The Footage Detectives
**7.00** The Champions
**8.00** The Main Chance
**9.00 FILM: Quatermass 2 (PG, 1957)** Hammer sci-fi horror sequel starring Brian Donlevy and Bryan Forbes (b/w)
**10.45** Secret Army
**11.50** Crown Court
**12.20am** Crown Court **1.20 FILM: The Amazing Howard Hughes (PG, TVM, 1977)** Biopic of the eccentric billionaire starring Tommy Lee Jones **3.55** Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre **4.50** The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre

## Film4

**11.00am Hatari! (U, 1962)** Comedy adventure starring John Wayne **2.10pm Comanche Station (PG, 1960)** Western starring Randolph Scott **3.45 Tora! Tora! Tora! (U, 1970)** Fact-based Second World War drama starring Martin Balsam and So Yamamura
**6.35 Star Trek (12, 2009)** The first mission of the starship *Enterprise* leads the crew into a battle with a Romulan. Sci-fi adventure starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto (AD)
**9.00 Independence Day (12, 1996)** The US president leads the fight against a force of seemingly indestructible aliens intent on conquering Earth. Sci-fi adventure with Will Smith, Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum (AD)
**11.50 The Craft (15, 1996)** Teenage witches use their powers to take revenge on classmates who have wronged them, but their leader's lust for power drives her mad. Horror with Robin Tunney, Neve Campbell and Fairuza Balk
**1.55am-4.00 Book Club (12, 2018)** The lives of four friends are changed for ever after they read *Fifty Shades of Grey* in their monthly book club. Comedy drama starring Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen and Jane Fonda (AD)

## More4

**8.55am** Kirstie's House of Craft **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** A Lake District Farm Shop. Charting a family-run shop and the people who produce the goods sold there
**6.55** Escape to the Château: DIY. A woman sets out to restore the chateau's greenhouse, which has been damaged in a storm (AD)
**7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets a pair who plan to build a glass-fronted house on a crumbling clifftop in Gwynedd, inspired by the villas of California (1/10) (AD)
**9.00** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz are taking on a 1984 Opel Manta GTE owned by a former amateur rally driver, whose family hope a fully restored car will help bring him out of his shell (AD)
**10.00** Inside Rolls-Royce. Behind the scenes at the car manufacturer's Goodwood factory, as the team builds the Celestial Phantom (AD)
**11.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A 51-year-old is brought in after coming off his bike (AD)
**12.05am** Shocking Emergency Calls (AD) **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.45** A Place in the Sun

## ITV2

**6.00am** World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** Dress to Impress (SL) **8.00** One Tree Hill **9.00** Dawson's Creek **10.00** Secret Crush **11.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** Celebrity Dinner Date (AD)
**1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Dinner Date. Dating show (AD)
**6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase. With Lady Leshurr, Gabby Logan and Adam Thomas (AD)
**7.00** Superstore (AD)
**7.30** Superstore (AD)
**8.00** Bob's Burgers (AD)
**8.30** Bob's Burgers (AD)
**9.00** Family Guy (AD)
**9.30** Family Guy (AD)
**10.00 FILM: Plebs — Soldiers of Rome (12, TVM, 2022)** Conclusion to the sitcom about a group of desperate young men from the suburbs of ancient Rome. Starring Tom Rosenthal (AD)
**11.50** Family Guy. Meg has a makeover (AD)
**12.20am** American Dad! Double bill (AD) **1.10** Bob's Burgers. Two episodes (AD) **2.05** Superstore (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.10** On the Buses **9.20** Wild at Heart (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD)
**1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Foyle's War (AD)
**6.00** Heartbeat. Greengrass uses his new job as a newspaper columnist to criticise assorted pillars of society. Bill Maynard stars (AD)
**7.00** Heartbeat. Maggie falls for a handsome new locum, Andy's bravery reconciles him with Gina, and Greengrass's bike hire business turns out to be seriously flawed (AD)
**8.00** Endeavour. Morse meets his intellectual match when a serial killer haunting the streets of Oxford keeps himself one step ahead of the law and leaves cryptic messages to goad the police. Starring Shaun Evans (2/5) (AD)
**10.00** Wire in the Blood. The dismembered remains of a Kurdish woman suggest an honour killing has taken place. Robson Green stars as psychologist Tony Hill (1&2/8) (AD)
**12.05am** Wild at Heart. Alice struggles to run the clinic without Danny (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**6.00am** Great Racehorses **6.25** Minder (AD, SL) **7.30** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.35** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **9.40** Magnum, PI **10.50** The Champions **11.55** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **1.00pm** Giant Lobster Hunters **2.00** Magnum, PI **3.00** The Professionals (AD) **4.05** Minder (AD)
**5.10** Giant Lobster Hunters. The powerful Bass Strait tide puts the Ella Rose in potential danger
**6.15 FILM: Licence to Kill (15, 1989)** James Bond plans revenge on a ruthless drug baron who maimed his friend, but is forced to act without the support of MI6. Spy thriller starring Timothy Dalton and Robert Davi (AD)
**9.00** No Room for Error. New series. Unrivalled behind-the-scenes access to the riders who take on the Isle of Man TT races
**10.00 FILM: Assassins (15, 1995)** A hitman on the verge of retirement spares his last target and protects her from a ruthless younger rival. Thriller with Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julianne Moore (AD)
**12.40am** Motorsport UK **1.45** Minder (AD, SL) **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## Drama

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.10** Pie in the Sky **8.00** Lovejoy **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Tenko **3.00** Lovejoy **4.10** Peak Practice **5.25** May to December
**6.00** Just Good Friends. Vince asks his father for advice and Penny learns a few home truths
**6.40** Last of the Summer Wine. Howard panics when Pearl discovers his underpants are missing
**7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. The ladies inadvertently take a mystery tour
**8.00** Jonathan Creek. The consulting detective returns to help an old acquaintance get to the bottom of a mystery from her past revolving around her family's foreboding home — Daemons' Roost. With Sarah Alexander (AD)
**10.00** New Tricks. Brian helps Esther's friend find her missing brother (4/10) (AD)
**11.20** Silent Witness. Sam investigates the links between the Army cover-up of a murder in Northern Ireland in 1985 and a farming accident in modern-day Cambridge (AD)
**1.20am** Happy Valley (AD) **2.40** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

## Yesterday

**6.10am** Ian Hislop's Trains That Changed the World **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **9.00** World War Weird **10.00** Great British Railway Journeys **11.00** The Fred Dibnah Story **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Great British Railway Journeys **2.00** Bangers and Cash **4.00** World War Weird **5.00** Great British Railway Journeys
**6.00** Canal Boat Diaries
**6.30** Villages by the Sea
**7.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. The Lake District's industrial heritage
**7.30** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain
**8.00** How To Build A Motor Car. A look at how a 21st century electric London Taxi is made
**9.00** Abandoned Engineering. Exploring Haludovo Palace Hotel in Croatia (AD)
**10.00** Bangers and Cash. The team struggles to explain how a DAF 33 gearbox works (2/10)
**11.00** Abandoned Engineering. A mysterious structure on the 38th parallel (8/11) (AD)
**12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Ian Hislop's Trains That Changed the World **2.00** Forbidden History (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

## Variations

### BBC1 N Ireland
**As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Family Footsteps **8.30-9.00** Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets — Panorama **10.40** The Peninsula Nurses **11.10** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.55** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star. The MUAs create special effects make-up for the BBC show *Ghosts* **12.55am-6.00** BBC News

### BBC1 Scotland
**As BBC1 except: 8.30pm-9.00** Scotland's Home of the Year **11.25** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) **12.10am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00** BBC News

### BBC1 Wales
**As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Weatherman Walking **8.30-9.00** Landfill: Britain's Toxic Secrets — Panorama **10.40** Rookie Nurses (r) **11.10** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.55** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star. The MUAs create special effects make-up for the show *Ghosts* **12.55am-6.00** BBC News

### ITV1 Wales
**As ITV1 except: 10.45pm-11.40** Sharp End. Political discussion presented by Rob Osborne

### STV
**As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** The 1% Club. Quiz hosted by Lee Mack (r) (AD) **12.00-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05** Night Vision

### UTV
**As ITV1 except: 10.45pm-11.40** View from Stormont. Political developments

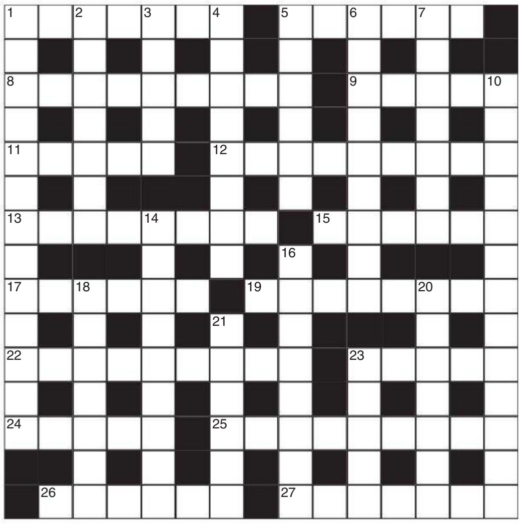
### BBC Scotland
**2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) (AD) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Sportscene Goals+ **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** Anton Danyluk on Body Shame (r) (AD) **11.00-12.00** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond (r) (AD)

### BBC Alba
**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.15** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.25** AH-AH/No-No **5.35** Pip & Posy **5.40** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.50** Piseag & Cuilean/Kit & Pup (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Port Pàipeir (r) **6.15** A' Chuil (r) **6.20** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.25** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles **6.35** Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin/The Adventures of Tintin (r) **7.00** An t-Eilean (From Skye with Love) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Gàrradh Phàdruig (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** Women's Sport 360 (r) **10.35** Plaigh air Bord (r) **11.35** Binneas **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

### S4C
**6.00am** Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Halibalw (r) **6.15** Twt (r) **6.30** Da 'Di Dona (r) **6.40** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **6.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindau **7.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **7.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Cymylaubychain (r) **8.20** Stiw (r) **8.35** Nico Nôg (r) **8.45** Fferm Fach (r) **9.00** Timpo (r) **9.10** Cei Bach (r) **9.25** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Y Diwrnod Mawr (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Halibalw (r) **10.15** Twt (r) **10.30** Da 'Di Dona (r) **10.40** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **10.55** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.05** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **11.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **11.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **11.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **1.30** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Ffit Cymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Sigldigwt (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Angelo am Byth (r) **5.10** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Chwarter Call (r) **5.35** Lego DREAMZzz **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **8.25** Garddio a Mwy **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **10.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **11.00-11.35** Dan Do (r)

# MindGames

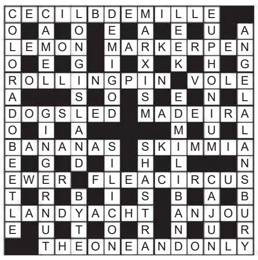
## General Knowledge Crossword No 182



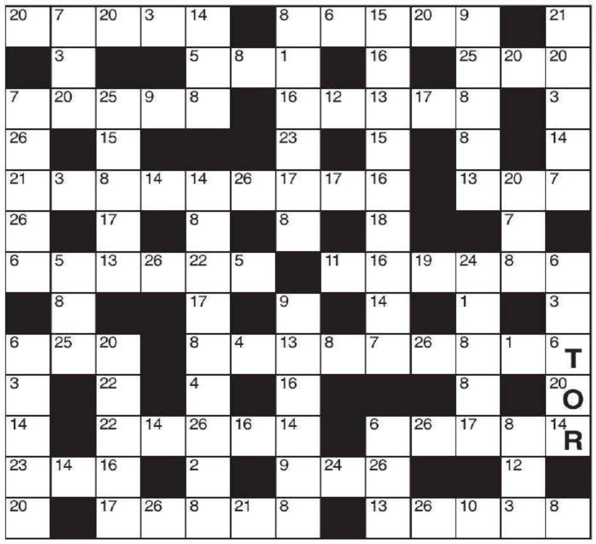
**Across**
1 Tool used for breaking up rocks or hard ground (7)
5 Early video games character pursued by four ghosts (3-3)
8 Terrestrial crustacean also known as a pill bug (9)
9 Physician best known for his book of synonyms first published in 1852 (5)
11 Heaviest of the naturally occurring noble gases (5)
12 Author and illustrator of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (4,5)
13 Free-form or improvised work of classical music (8)
15 Native American people of southwest USA (*J, not H*) (6)
17 Roman ode writer who penned the *Ars Poetica* (6)
19 Great beast that "eateth grass as an ox" in the Book of Job (8)
22 Yellow-flowered weed (9)
23 Spicy Mexican sauce (5)
24 Musical instrument played by scraping a stick over notches or ridges on its surface (5)
25 Author of the war trilogy that includes *The Ghost Road* (3,6)
26 Pine or fir leaf (6)
27 Mark ---, actor acclaimed for his portrayal of "Rooster" Byron in the play *Jerusalem* (7)

**Down**
1 *The* ---, 2021 western that gave the director Jane Campion her second Oscar (5,2,3,3)
2 London borough in which Selhurst Park is located (7)
3 Dave ---, irreverent Irish "sit-down" comedian (5)
4 Pale yellow-green colour (3,2,3)
5 US pianist and conductor born in Germany in 1929 (6)
6 Scarce farmland bird with a distinctive rasping call (9)
7 Africa's largest country (7)
10 U2 album featuring the track *With or Without You* (3,6,4)
14 One 60th of a minute of angular distance (3,6)
16 Irish province in which Dublin is situated (8)
18 Scottish thermodynamics pioneer who devised a temperature scale (7)
20 Waterproofed cotton fabric (7)
21 Cloth headdress worn as part of the habit of some nuns (6)
23 Heather ---, lead singer of the band M People (5)

**Last week's solution**



## Codeword No 4907



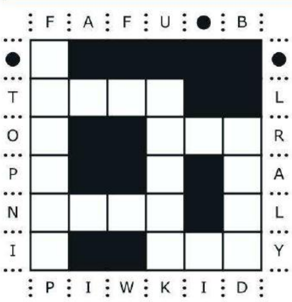
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

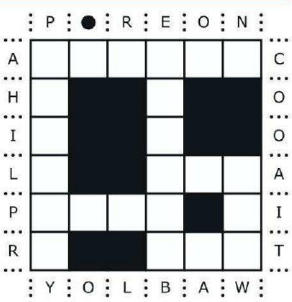
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | T | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| R | | | | | | O | | | | | | |

Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

**Cluelines Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

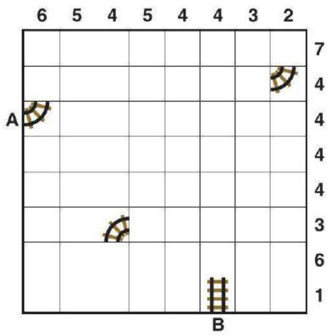
## Lexica No 6881 No 6882





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

## Train Tracks No 1942



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

## Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

**1** Finish first alcoholic drink, mostly (3)

_ _ _

**2** Fine to cut jack, queen, and another card (5)

_ _ _ _ _

**3** Budding narcissus initially has a smell (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Bad writer observed tool (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Meets naive criminal from Asia (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

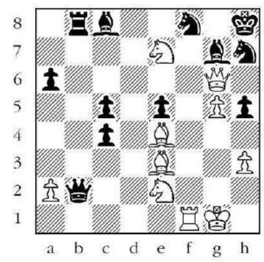
| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | A | C | C | E | E |
| E | E | E | H | I | I | J | K |
| K | M | N | N | N | N | O | R |
| S | S | S | T | T | V | W | W |

**Challenge your mind with puzzle books from The Times**



thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

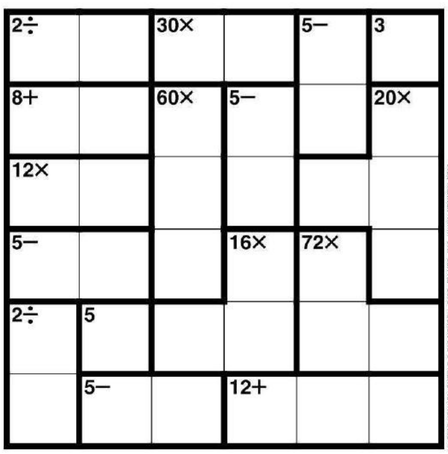
## Winning Move



**White to play.** This position is from Indjic-Harshavardhan, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2023.

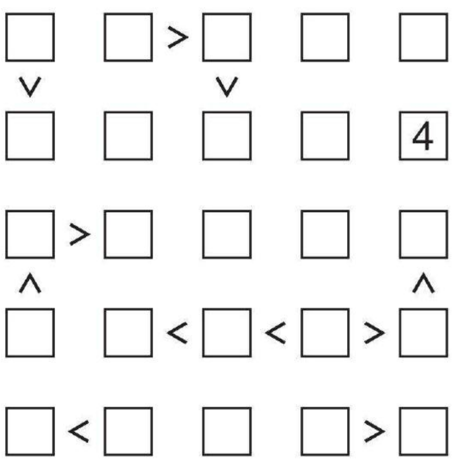
White has a crushing attack and there are two ways to finish off the game at once. One is fairly pedestrian but the other involves an attractive combination. Can you find both finishes?

## KenKen Easy No 5899



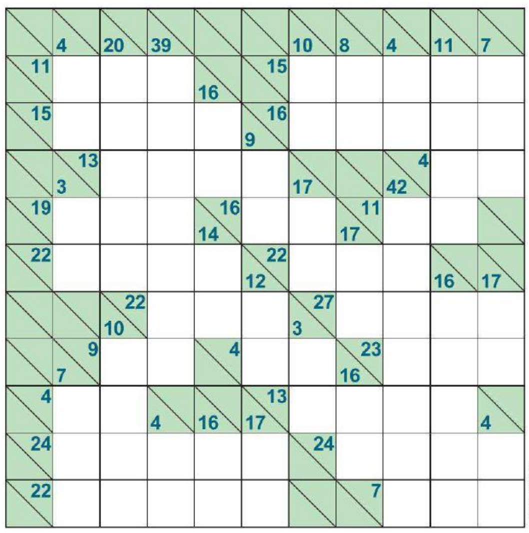
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

## Futoshiki No 4481



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

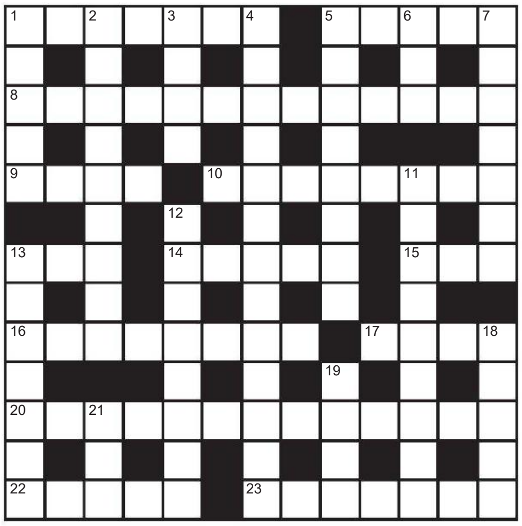
## Kakuro No 3440



Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

# MindGames

## times2 Crossword No 9223



**Across**
1 Quiver (7)
5 Put forward for debate (5)
8 Shadowy mastermind (8,5)
9 Owings (4)
10 Shaped, moulded (8)
13 Automobile (3)
14 Stout footwear (5)
15 Pub drink (3)
16 Disruptive change (8)
17 Miss out (4)
20 Concerned with one's own pleasure only (4-9)
22 Plant with flower spikes (5)
23 Memory loss (7)

**Down**
1 Fashion, fad (5)
2 City nicknamed "Auld Reekie" (9)
3 Root vegetable (4)
4 Reference book (13)
5 Boxing (8)
6 Winter sports implement (3)
7 Sewing machine pedal (7)
11 Unappreciated (9)
12 Graze (8)
13 Advice (7)
18 Slightly leavened bread (5)
19 Open-topped tart (4)

21 Backchat, cheek (3)

**Solution to Crossword 9222**



**Need help with today's puzzle?** Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Bridge Andrew Robson

The main event at the 4th European Winter Games in Tignes, Les Etincelles Cup, was won by the British-based team Orca, including my regular team-mates. Congratulations to Richard Plackett, Espen Erichsen, Peter Crouch and their Scandinavian teammates Erik Berg and the Rimstedt twins Ola and Mikael.

This was an interesting deal from their final v Multon. Plan the play in 5♦ doubled on a trump lead, West guessing dummy for the 1♠ 4♥ 3♦ 5♣ shape suggested by bidding clubs-hearts-diamonds, and (correctly) presuming East for good trumps for his double.

Declarer won dummy's king of diamonds but did not cash the ace (to do so would have been fatal, wasting a dummy entry, but would he have done so without the double?). At trick two, he led the king of hearts for a ruffing finesse, ruffing away East's ace. At trick three, he led a diamond to the ace (West discarding a heart), then cashed the queen of hearts, discarding a spade.

At trick five, declarer ruffed a heart, his cunning plan being to ruff three hearts in hand to score a total of five diamond tricks. Provided he could cash all his black suit tops, and together with the queen of hearts already cashed, that would bring his trick tally to the requisite 11. At trick six, declarer crossed to the queen of spades then ruffed dummy's fourth heart.

We have reached the ending across. Declarer carefully crossed to the ace of clubs and led a second club through East, catering to him being void. East ruffing a loser would be no good, so he discarded a spade. Declarer now won the king and cashed the ace-king of spades. Eleven tricks and doubled game made. andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Dealer: North, Vulnerability: Both

Teams

North: ♠ Q6 ♥ KQ65 ♦ AK ♣ A10843
West: ♠ J97 ♥ 108742 ♦ 4 ♣ QJ96
East: ♠ 10853 ♥ AJ93 ♦ QJ108 ♣ 7
South: ♠ AK42 ♥ - ♦ 976532 ♣ K52

| S | W | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1♣ | Pass |
| 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 3♣ | Pass | 3♦ (1) | Pass |
| 5♦ | Pass | Pass | Dbl(2) |
| End | | | |

(1) Implying a 1♠ 4♥ 3♦ 5♣ shape but North doesn't want to go past 3NT yet cannot bid it at this juncture for the lack of a stopper in the unbid spades.
(2) Tempting but you're probably doubling for one down (no big deal) and your double may tip declarer off to the bad split.

Contract: 5♦ Dbled, Opening Lead: ♦4

North: ♠ 6 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ A10843
West: ♠ J9 ♥ - ♦ - ♣ QJ96
East: ♠ 1085 ♥ - ♦ QJ ♣ 7
South: ♠ AK ♥ - ♦ 9 ♣ K52

## Brain Trainer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EASY 8 | x 3 | TRIPLE IT | ÷ 8 | + 9 | + 10 | DOUBLE IT | x 2 | − 4 | DOUBLE IT | ANSWER |
| MEDIUM 130 | x 2 | DOUBLE IT | + 14 | − 1/3 OF IT | − 6 | DOUBLE IT | + 20 | + 30 | ÷ 3 | ANSWER |
| HARDER 343 | ÷ 7 | − 19 | SQUARE IT | + 20% OF IT | + 1/2 OF IT | ÷ 5 | − 2 | x 8 | − 76 | ANSWER |

## Polygon

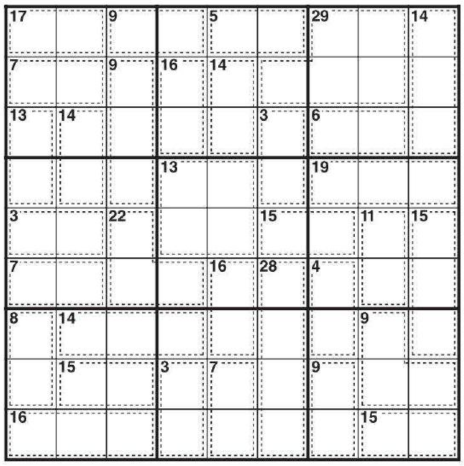



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
**How you rate** 15 words, average; 20, good; 24, very good; 28, excellent

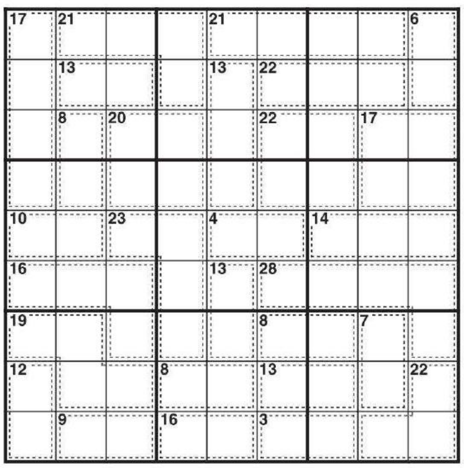
**Saturday's answers**

argus, auld, drug, druggy, dual, dull, dural, gallus, gaud, gaudy, gaur, glug, guar, guard, gular, gull, gully, gyrus, laud, lauds, lurgy, raguly, rusa, saury, sludgy, slug, sluggard, **sluggardly**, slur, sugar, sugary, sully, sura, sural, surd, surly, udal, ugly

## Killer Gentle No 8886



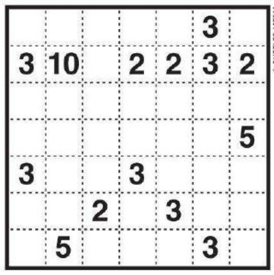
## Killer Tricky No 8887



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

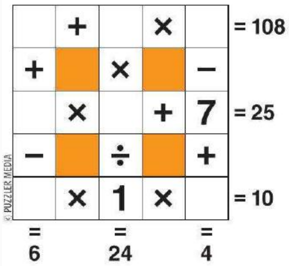
**Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Cell Blocks No 4790



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

## Set Square No 3443



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

## Solutions

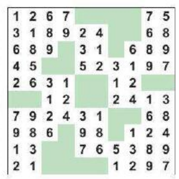
Quick Cryptic 2399



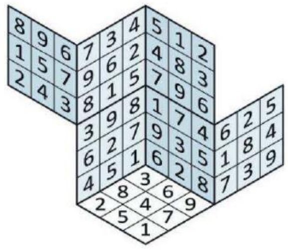
Codeword 4906



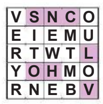
Kakuro 3439



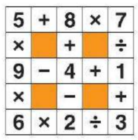
Tredoku 1786



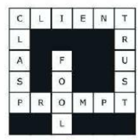
Square Routes 219



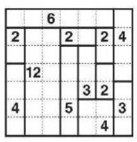
Set Square 3442



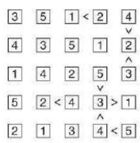
Lexica 6879



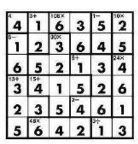
Cell Blocks 4789



Futoshiki 4480



KenKen 5898



Lexica 6880



Sudoku 14,056

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 |
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 |
| 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 |

Killer 8885

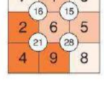
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

### Today's solutions

**Concise Quintagram**
1 Gloss
2 Spill
3 Bowled
4 Ticking
5 Overtaken

**Cryptic Quintagram**
1 Win
2 Joker
3 Nascent
4 Hacksaw
5 Vietnamese

**Suko 3808**



**Brain Trainer**
Easy 216
Medium 250
Harder 2,500

**Word watch**

**Rum blossom** (c) A pimple on the nose (*Chambers*)
**Frontenis** (c) A variant of the sport pelota (*Collins*)
**Omniana** (a) Notes about all kinds of things (*OED*)

**Chess — Winning Move**

1 Qxh7+! leads to a spectacular mate: 1 ... Nxh7 2 Ng6+ Kg8 3 Bd5+ Be6 4 Bxe6 mate. More pedestrian is 1 Rxf8+ Nxf8 2 Qxh5+ and mate follows

**Quiz**

**1** Cleopatra (VII) **2** Birkenstock **3** *Pride and Prejudice* **4** *Mary Poppins* **5** Nasa **6** Mexico. It is also known as the Mexican hat dance **7** Chariots **8** Tom Hanks **9** Battle of Castillon **10** Sandie Shaw **11** Michel catalogue **12** Hydrogen cyanide aka prussic acid **13** Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) **14** Shane Horgan **15** Emily Blunt

# MindGames

For extra puzzles See page 10

## Word watch
David Parfitt

**Rum blossom**
**a** Malformed flowers or buds
**b** A traditional pudding
**c** A pimple on the nose

**Frontenis**
**a** Impudence, cheek
**b** A genus of fern
**c** A variant of the sport pelota

**Omniana**
**a** Notes about all kinds of things
**b** A transcendental state
**c** A cycling race

*Answers on page 15*

## Sudoku

**Easy No 14,057**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 8 | | | | | 2 | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 7 | 8 |
| | 5 | | 9 | 2 | | | | |
| 6 | | | 3 | 8 | | | | |
| 5 | 7 | | 6 | | 4 | 3 | | |
| 8 | | | | 1 | 5 | 7 | | |
| | 9 | | | | | | | 5 |
| 7 | | 6 | | 4 | | 1 | 3 | |
| | 2 | | 8 | 6 | 3 | | | |

**Difficult No 14,058**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 7 | 5 | | | 3 |
| 1 | | 2 | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | | | | 1 | 4 | |
| 2 | | | 4 | | | | | 7 |
| 5 | 3 | | | | | | 6 | 1 |
| 4 | | | | | 6 | | | 9 |
| | 1 | 4 | | | | 7 | | |
| | | | | | | 3 | | 6 |
| 6 | | | 7 | 8 | | | | |

**Fiendish No 14,059**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | | 3 | | | 8 |
| | | | | | | | 4 | 3 |
| | | | 5 | 4 | | 6 | | |
| | 5 | 8 | | 9 | | | | 6 |
| 9 | | | | 3 | | 2 | | |
| | 3 | 6 | | 8 | | | | 7 |
| | | | 8 | 5 | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | 9 | 4 |
| | | 7 | | | 2 | | | 5 |

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

**1** In about 44BC, Cicero said: "I detest the queen" about which Egyptian ruler?

**2** "Birks" is a nickname for which German footwear brand?

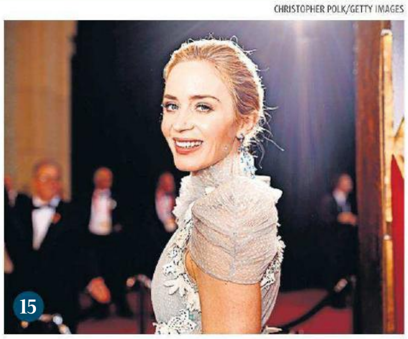
**3** Colleen McCullough's *The Independence of Miss Mary Bennet* is a sequel to which Jane Austen novel?

**4** PL Travers created the title character in which 1964 Disney musical film?

**5** Dr Nancy Roman was which space agency's first chief astronomer?

**6** Originating in the city of Guadalajara, *el jarabe tapatio* is the national dance of which country?

CHRISTOPHER POLK/GETTY IMAGES




**7** In the Roman empire, the essedari were gladiators who fought from which vehicles like ancient Britons?

**8** *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece* is which US actor's 2023 debut novel?

**9** The "English Achilles", John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury was killed at which 1453 battle?

**10** Which English singer had hits with *Girl Don't Come* (1964) and *I'll Stop at Nothing* (1965)?

**11** First published in 1910, what is the German-speaking world's largest stamp catalogue?

**12** Based on the oxidation of ammonia and methane, the Andrussow process produces which chemical compound?

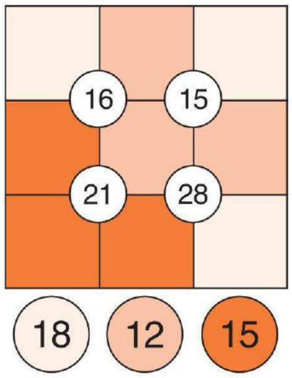
**13** Which whale holds the record for deepest and longest dive for any mammal?

**14** Which rugby winger/centre (b 1978), who won 65 caps for Ireland, was nicknamed "Shaggy"?

**15** Which English actress is pictured?

*Answers on page 15*

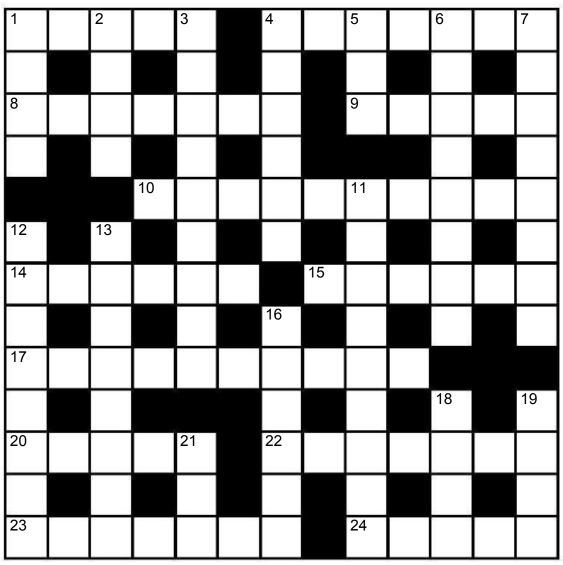
## Suko No 3808




Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

**For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk**

## The Times Quick Cryptic No 2400 by Oink

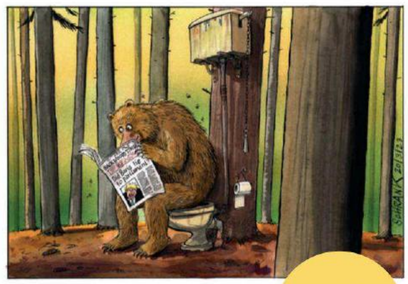



**Across**
1 What detects flights heading east and west (5)
4 Criminal admires his Smith & Wesson? (7)
8 Can chap from Gdansk dance around this? (7)
9 You need good school to succeed (3,2)
10 Partner recovered, but not completely? (6,4)
14 A number of the French caught in flat (6)
15 Ancient writer's second lusty novel (6)
17 Daft auntie hopelessly in love (10)
20 I worried about Republican being very angry (5)
22 Not the freshest of vegetables, my friend (3,4)
23 Hanging in there is old Penny (3,4)
24 Queen visiting Massachusetts Institute of Technology? Goodness! (5)

**Down**
1 Run over politician for a lark (4)
2 Time spent in state of shock they say (4)
3 Resolve to out US president (9)
4 Some Aussies taking an afternoon nap (6)
5 Director General eating duck — or some other creature? (3)
6 Bill has trade union friend, as it happens (8)
7 Display list of cargo on board (8)
11 Scoundrel meeting barrier in Dutch port (9)
12 Revolutionary a little crestfallen in Istanbul (8)
13 Hunk of meat, followed by gateau (8)
16 Outdo a single US gangster (6)
18 Local getting hold of E in Paddington? (4)
19 Join an idiot, did you say? (4)
21 I pass at end of course (3)

*Friday's solution on page 15*

T GIFTS



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